寿命を買い取ってもらった。

一年一万円で。

I sold my life for ten thousand yen per year.

I sold my life
for
ten thousand yen
per year.

1
the first volume

JUMP COMICS+

三秋縋 原作 漫画 田口囁一

（メディアワークス文庫「三日間の幸福」）
キャラクターデザイン E9L・田口囁一

In the summer ten years from now,
we'll finally feel like we're glad to have lived,
deep in our hearts.
And we'll show up those dunces.
Ten years? We'll be 20 then.
Able to drink, and to smoke.
And to marry... well, that comes earlier.
Well, in that case...
Me too.
Ahaha...
There's too much stuff I don't like.
Why?
But, I don't feel like I'll be able to do it.

When we turn twenty, and get famous...
If by then,
shameful as it is,
we haven't found anyone we want to marry...
If that hap-pens.

Would you want to be with me...
as fellow "people left on the shelf"?

It's a joke.
Just forget it, okay?
What's that about?
Really now...
As if I would ever go unsold.
I just wanted to hear myself say it.

新連載

第一話

New Series
Chapter 1

寿命を
買い取ってもらった。
一年につき、一万円で。

I Sold Off
My Lifespan,
For 10,000 Yen A Year.

いなくなる人のこと、
好きになっても、
仕方ないんですけどね。

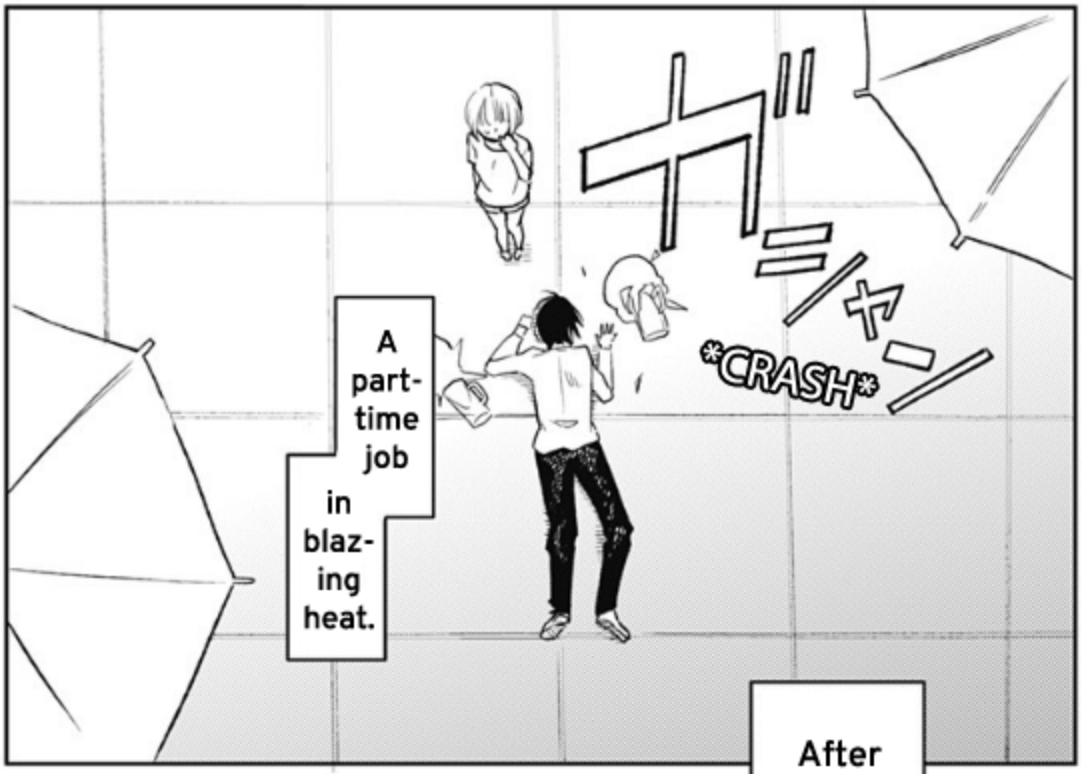
Though it's no use
loving someone
who's soon to go away.

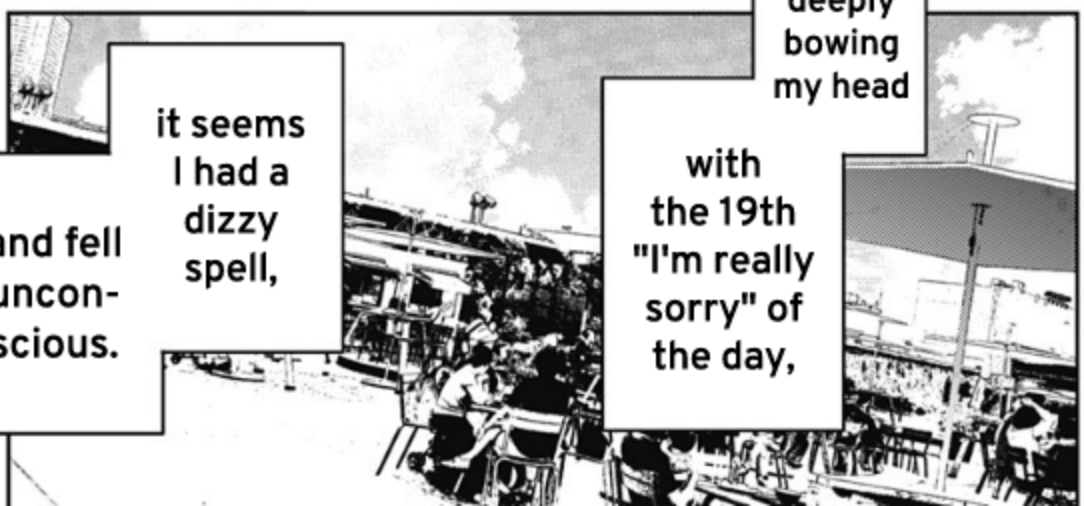
Original: Sugaru Miaki ("Three Days of Happiness" from Media Works Bunko)
Manga: Shoichi Taguchi
Character Design: E9L / Shoichi Taguchi

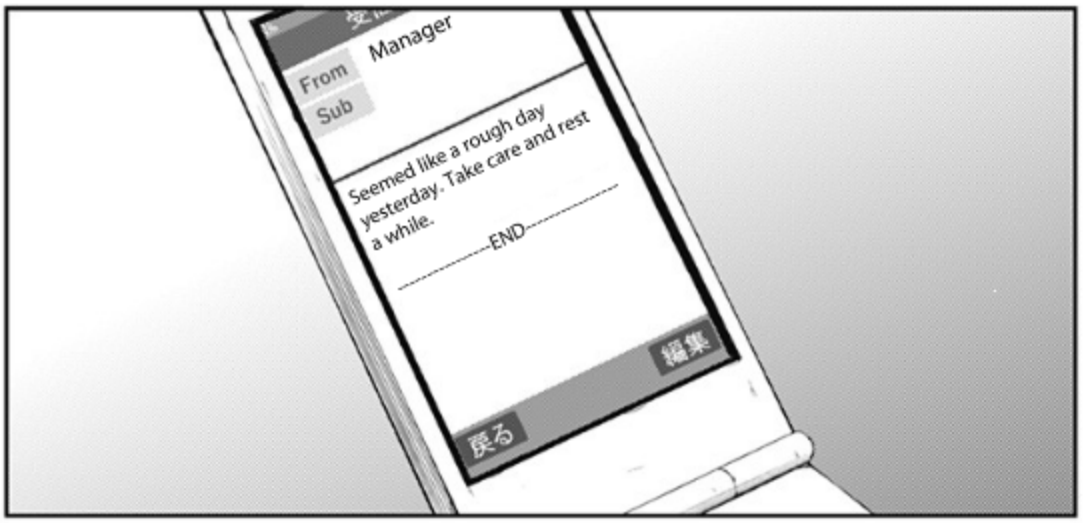
原作：三秋縋（みあきすがる）　漫画：田口囁一（たぐちしょういち）
（メディアワークス文庫『三日間の幸福』）
キャラクターデザイン：E9L・田口囁一

I Sold Off My Lifespan, For 10,000 Yen A Year.
寿命を買い取ってもらった。一年につき、一万円で

I'm really sorry.

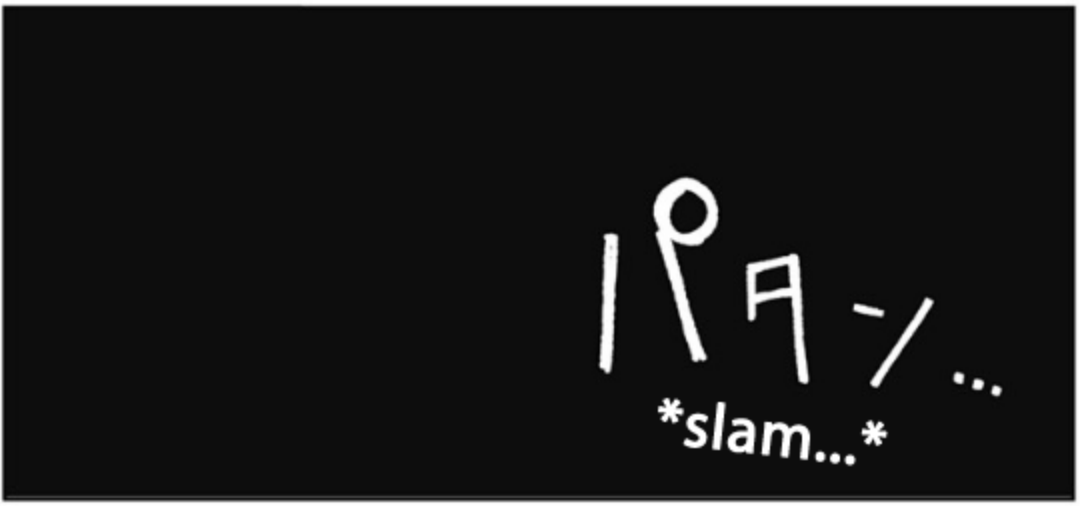

A part-time job in blazing heat.
CRASH

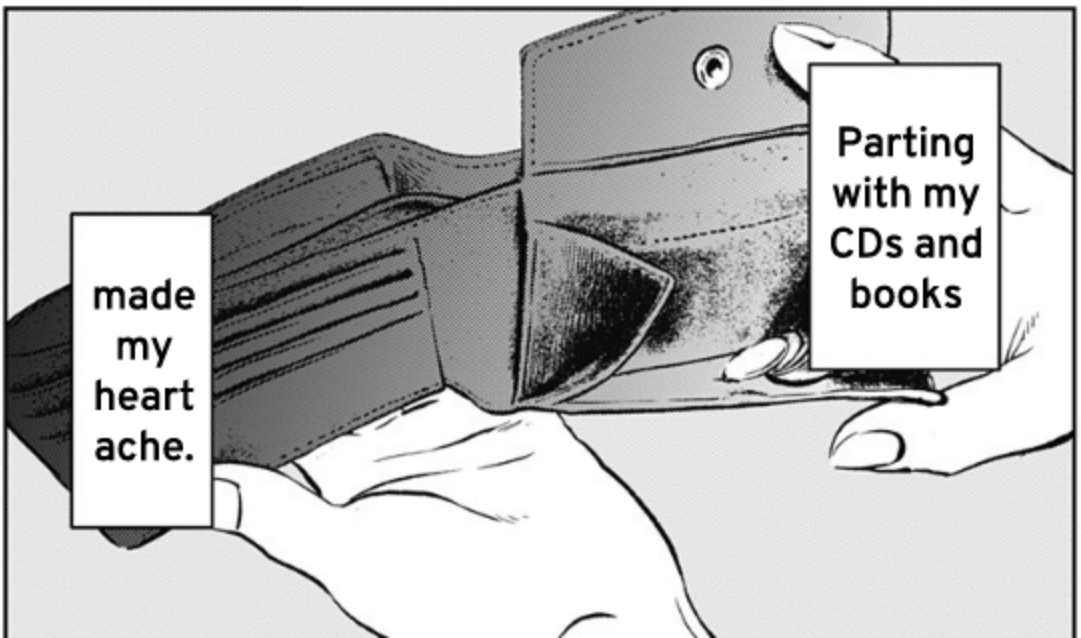

After deeply bowing my head
with the 19th "I'm really sorry" of the day,
it seems I had a dizzy spell,
and fell unconscious.


From
Manager
Sub
Seemed like a rough day yesterday. Take care and rest a while.
----------END----------
編集
戻る

…

...


パタン...
slam...


Parting with my CDs and books
made my heart ache.

They were all second-hand.
Purchases I'd made with careful consider-ation...

they seemed the only things left that could get me any money.
By now,
But my room lacked even a computer or a TV.

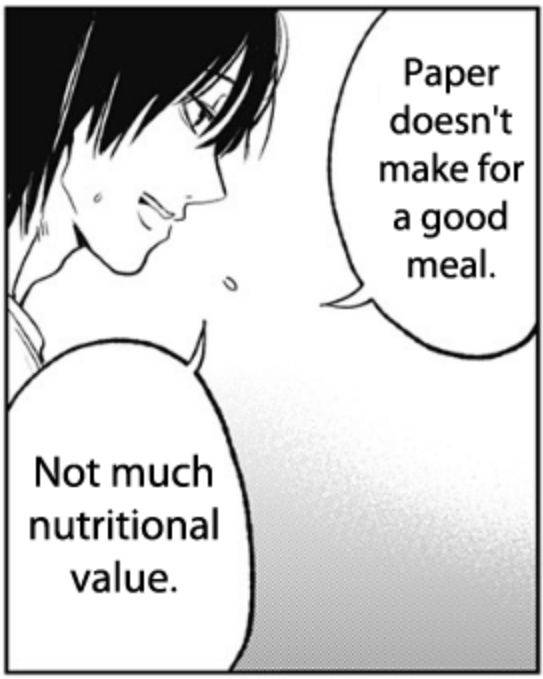
ガララ
rattle

しん…
silence...

Hello.
I'm here to sell some books.

Are you moving or some-thing?
...

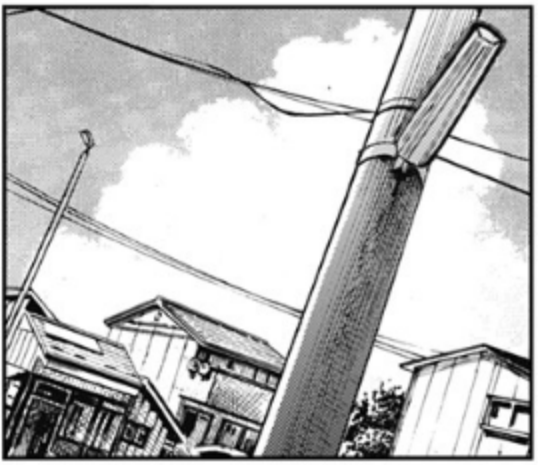
Well then...
No.
Nothing like that.

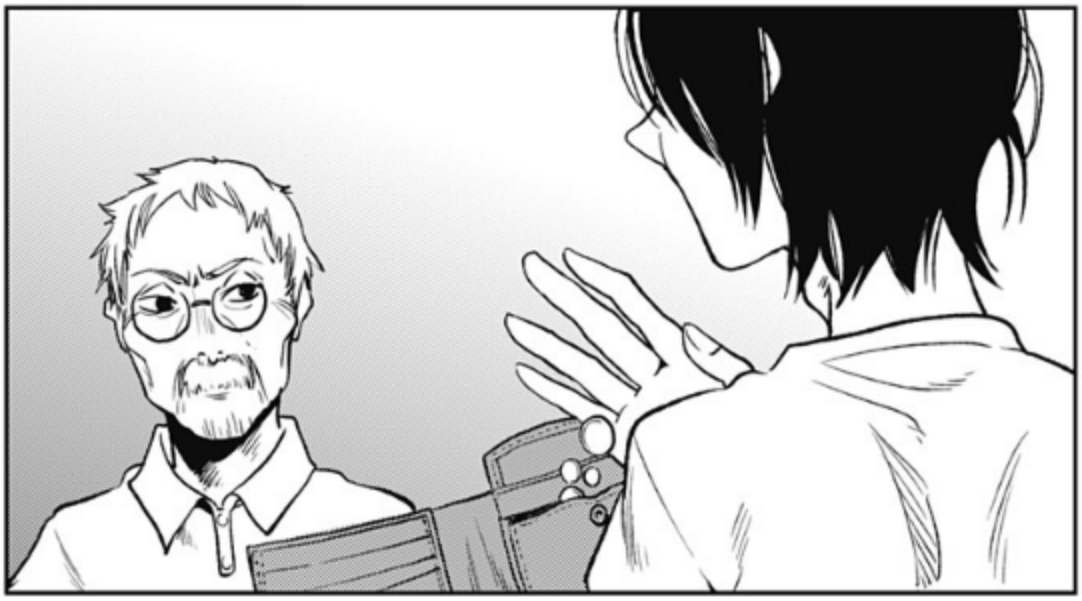

Paper doesn't make for a good meal.
Not much nutritional value.

Why do something so waste-ful?

It'll take about thirty minutes to evaluate.
Short on cash, eh...

古本買取
即日対応
電話(

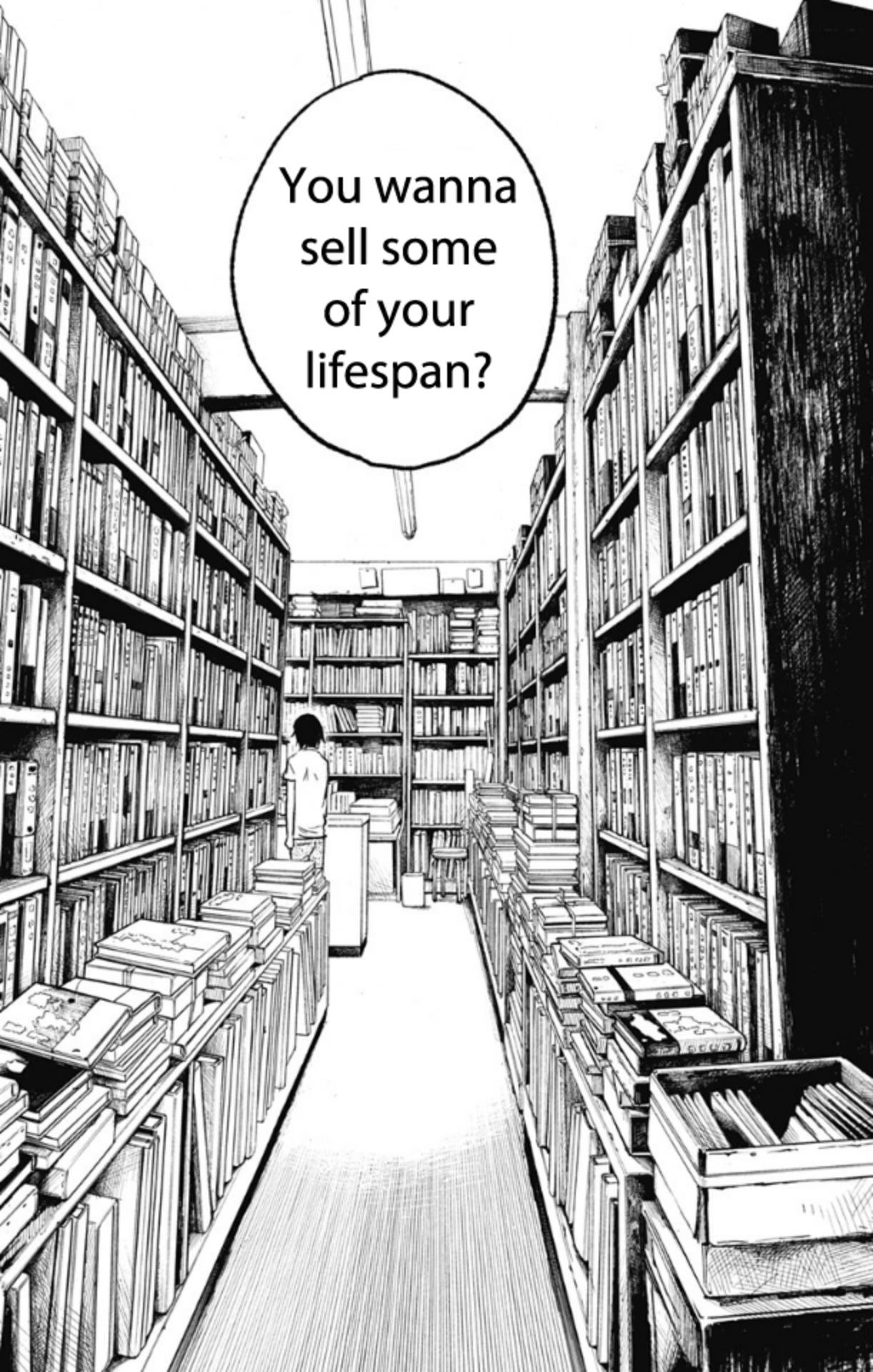




... Hey.

I've got something to tell you about.

...
It's not like it's anything recent.
You're hurting for money, right?
...
What is it?
Well,
I don't care to know how poor you are,
or why things got that way.
That's not my interest.
...
I just wanna ask you one thing.


You wanna sell some of your lifespan?

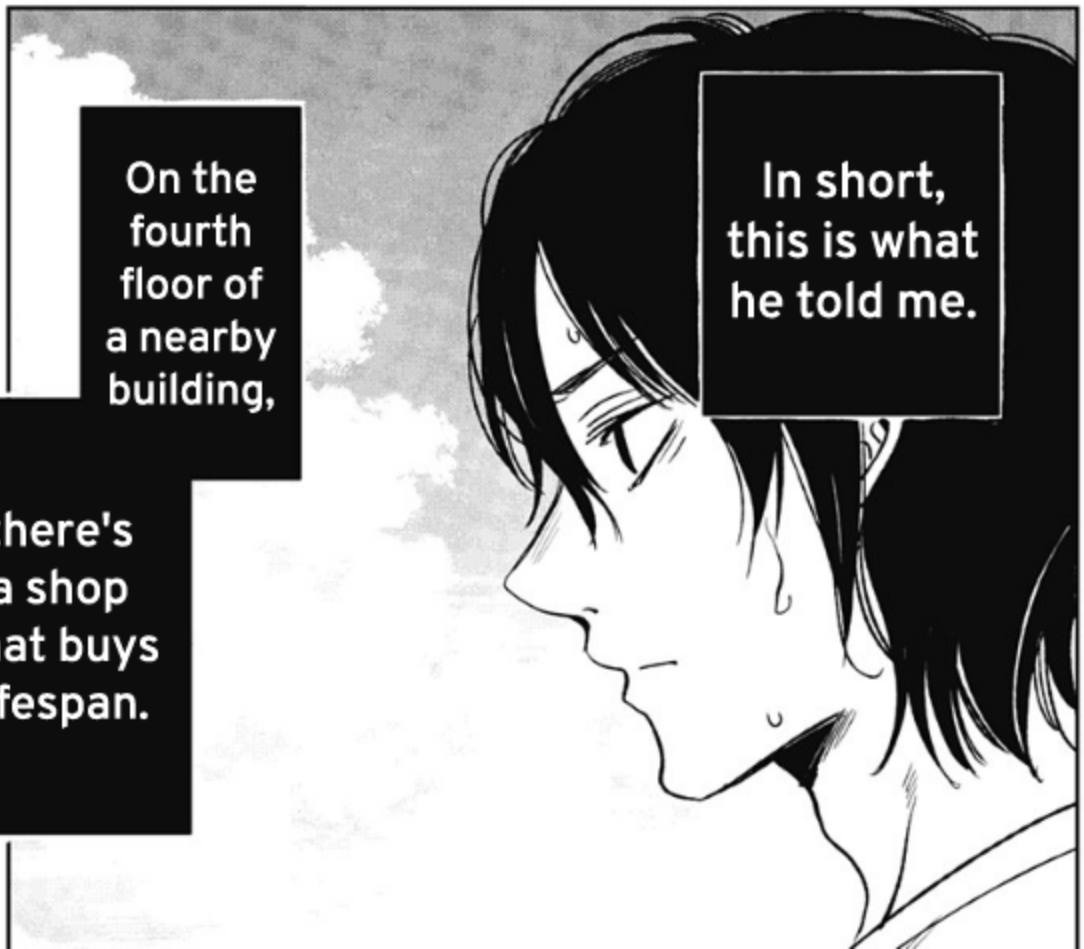
...
Life-span?

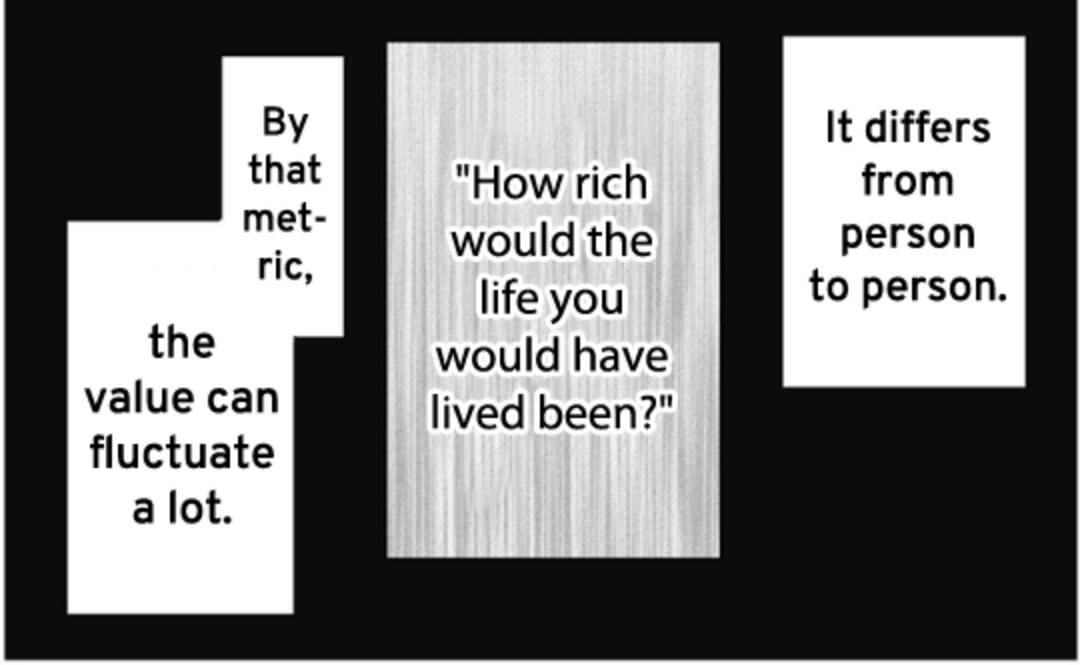
Yeah.
Life-span.
Oh, but,
it's not like I'm the one buying it.

Couldn't blame you for thinking I'm joking.
Or thinking this old coot's gone senile.

I know it sells for a lot, though.
...

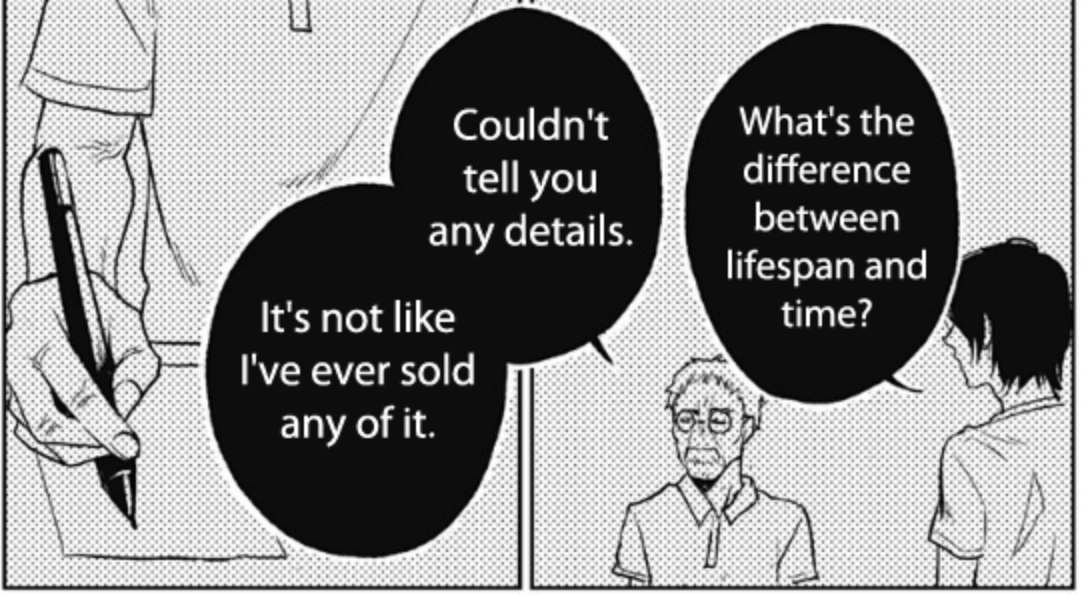
You'll see I'm not lying.
But if you want to entertain my nonsense,
go take a look, I'll tell you where.


In short, this is what he told me.
On the fourth floor of a nearby building,
there's a shop that buys lifespan.

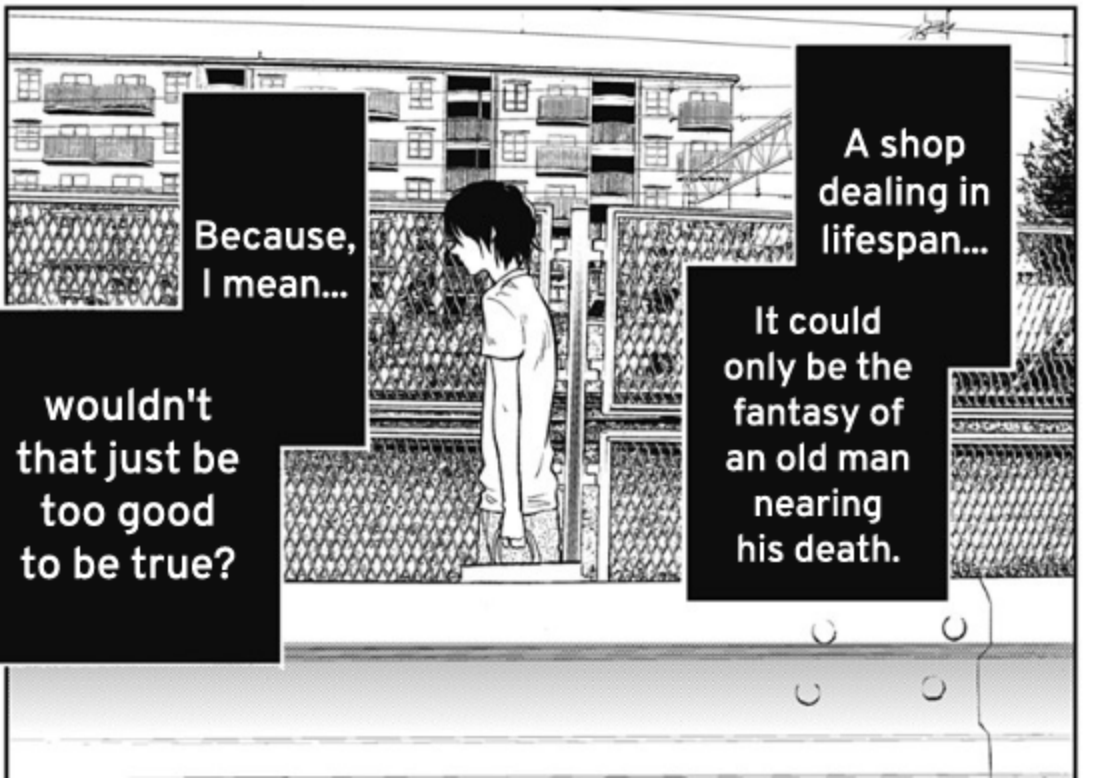

By that met-ric,
the value can fluctuate a lot.
"How rich would the life you would have lived been?"
It differs from person to person.

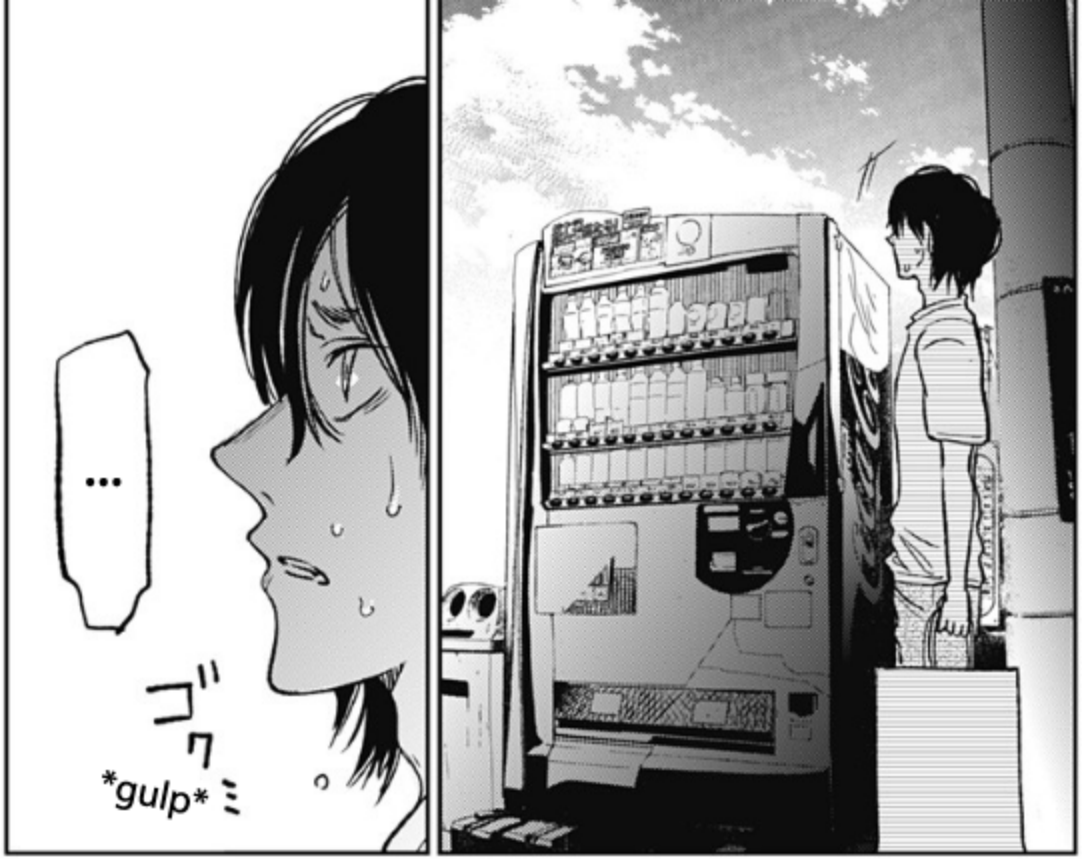
and you've got decent taste in books.
but you don't look like a bad guy,
I don't really know you much at all,

Besides lifespan,
apparently they'll buy "time" and "health" too.
Must have some value, right?
...


What's the difference between lifespan and time?
Couldn't tell you any details.
It's not like I've ever sold any of it.

Here.


A shop dealing in lifespan...
It could only be the fantasy of an old man nearing his death.
Because, I mean...
wouldn't that just be too good to be true?

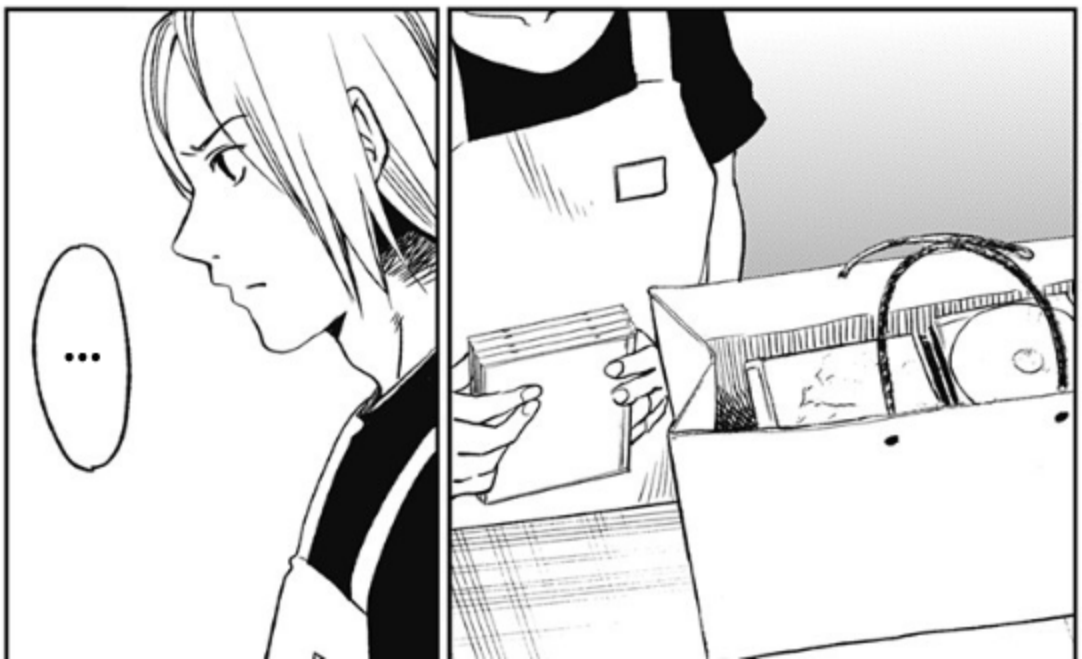

…
ゴク
gulp
Coca-Cola

Coca-Cola

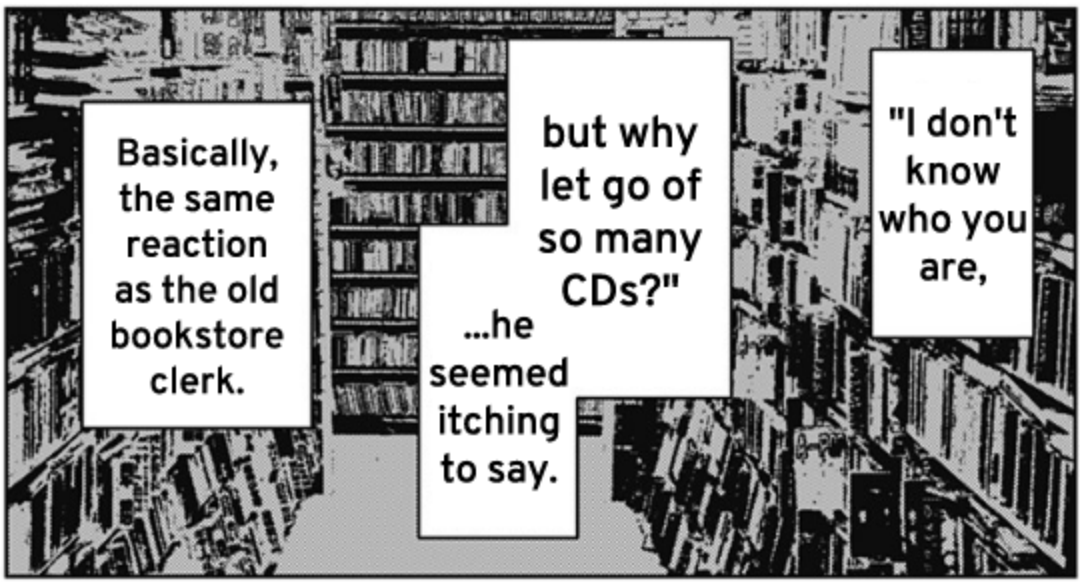
CD
RECORD MARKET
CD
P
RECORD MARKET
PCソフト
DVD

Wel-
come!

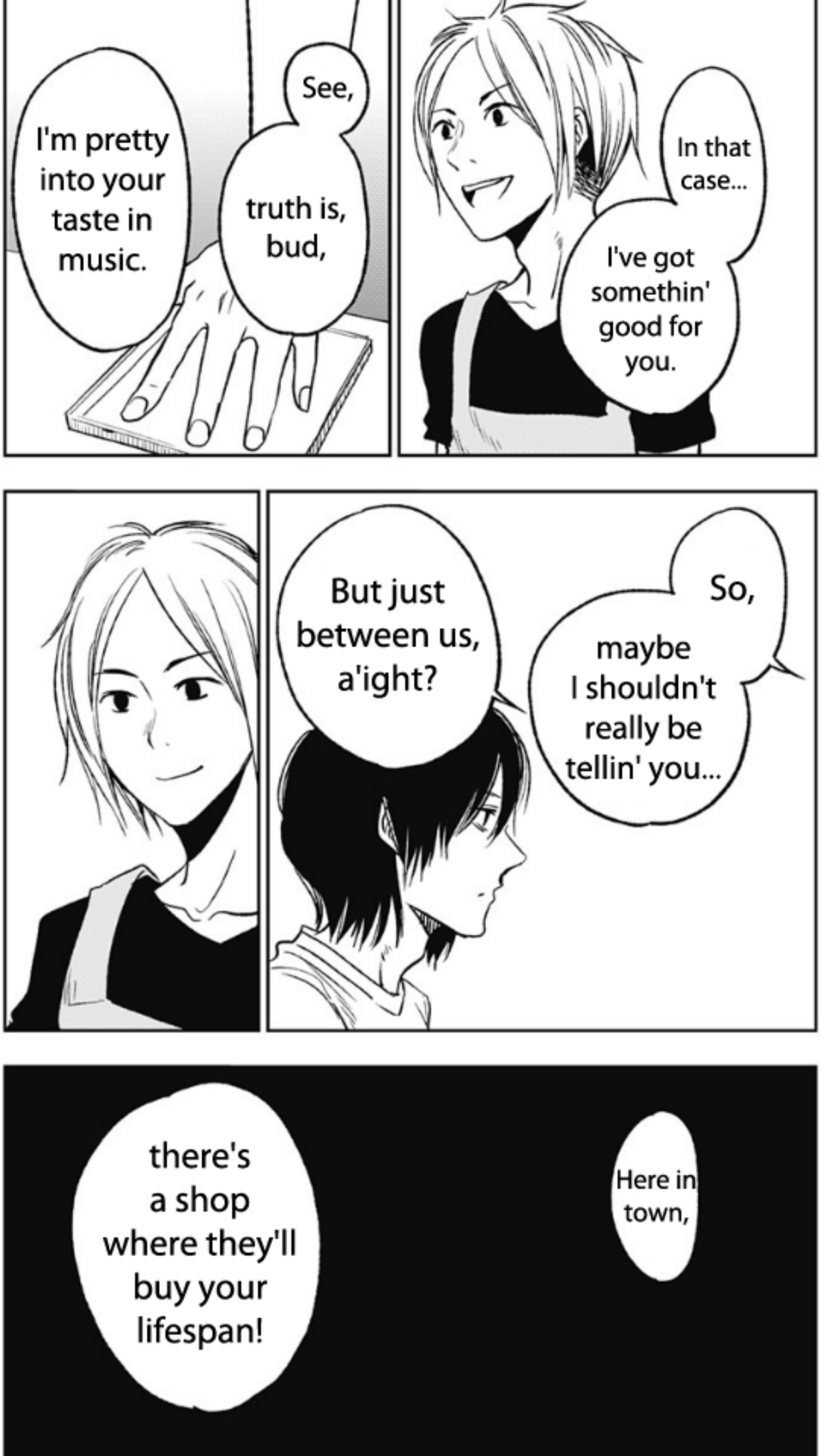
These.
PS4

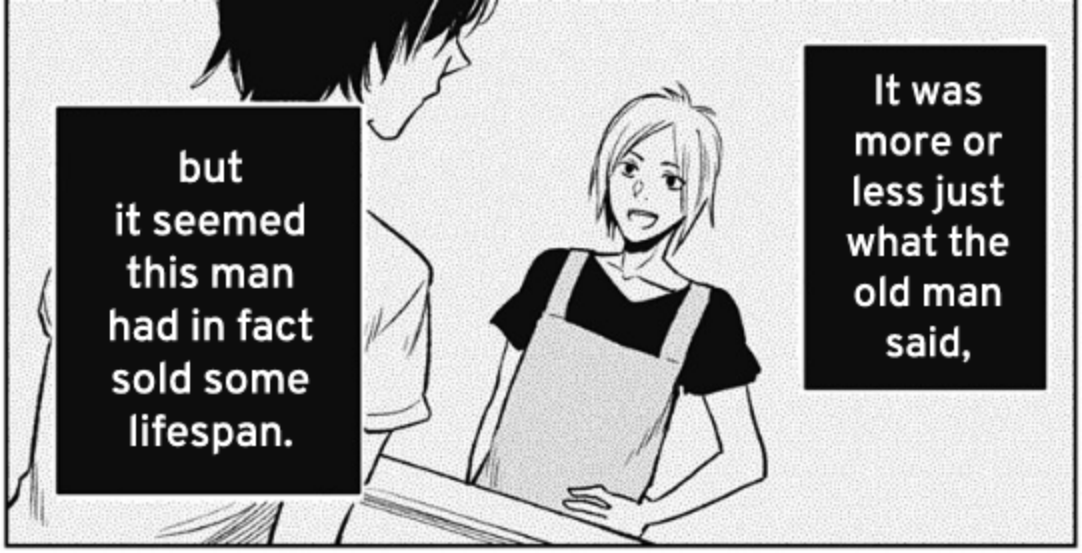

...

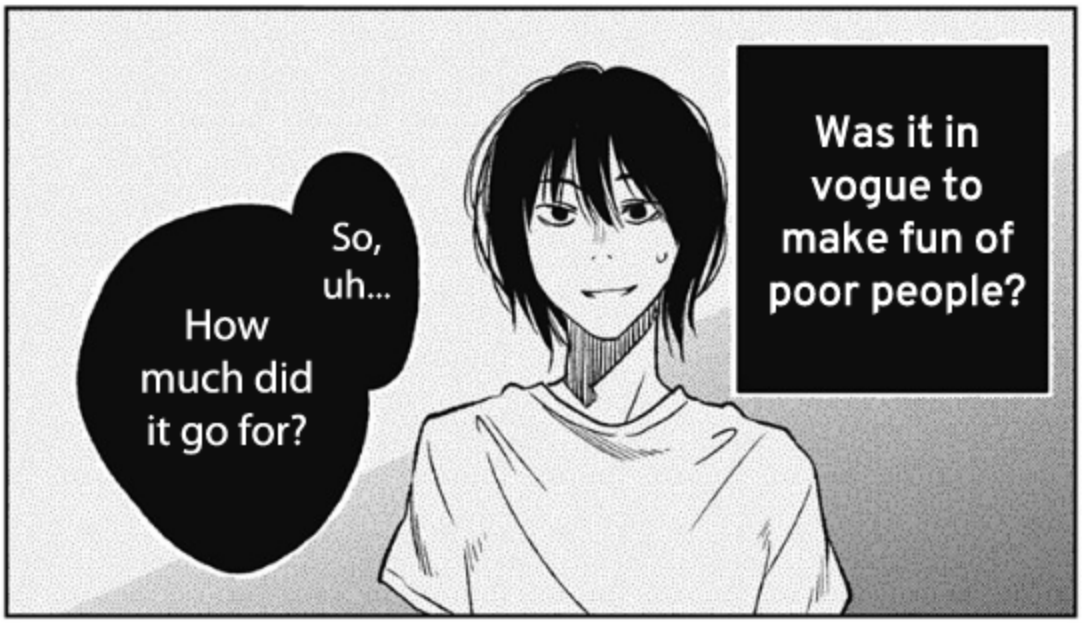
What kinda turn of events is this?
...


Basically, the same reaction as the old bookstore clerk.
but why let go of so many CDs?"
...he seemed itching to say.
"I don't know who you are,

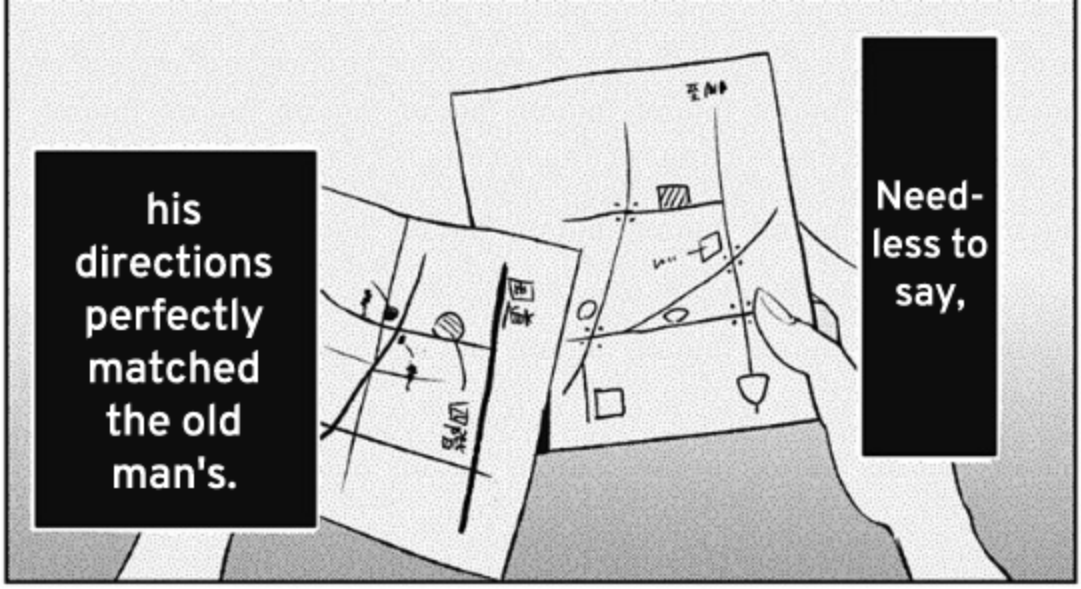
I explained why I had no choice but to sell them.
Just like before,


I'm pretty into your taste in music.
See,
truth is, bud,
In that case...
I've got somethin' good for you.
So, maybe I shouldn't really be tellin' you...
But just between us, a'ight?
Here in town,
there's a shop where they'll buy your lifespan!


It was more or less just what the old man said,
but it seemed this man had in fact sold some lifespan.


Was it in vogue to make fun of poor people?
So, uh...
How much did it go for?

Here ya go.
Can't really tell you that.


his directions perfectly matched the old man's.
Need-less to say,

clunk
ガコン

It's cold...
プシュ
psh
BIG サイズ
たっぷり
+150ml
Might as well today...

clatter
ガシャン
ゴク
glug
ゴク
glug

Tch.
くしゃ
crush

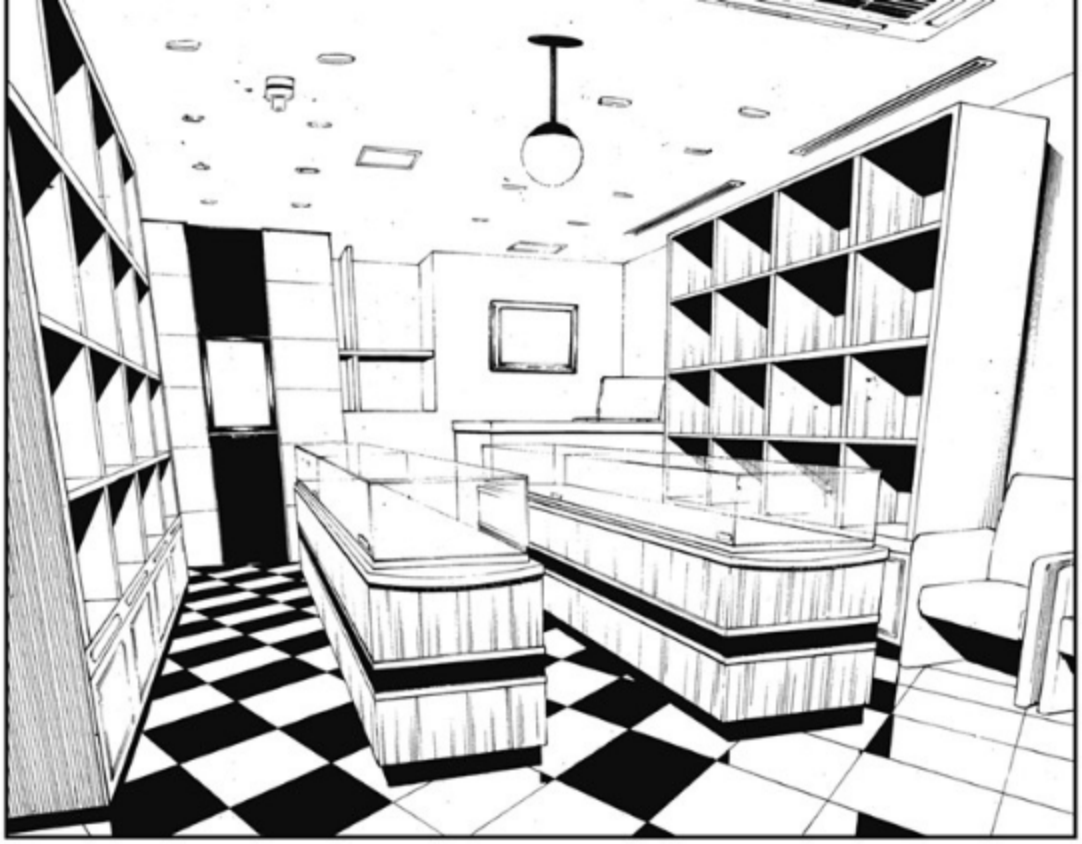
In the end,
I found myself standing in front of that building.

Circumstances kept them from saying it directly,

but there was some lucrative job offered there

that was "at the risk of shortening your lifespan."

401
And that's what they really wanted to share with me.
ガチャ
click



Wel-
come.

Your time?
Your health?
Or your lifespan?
...Life-span.

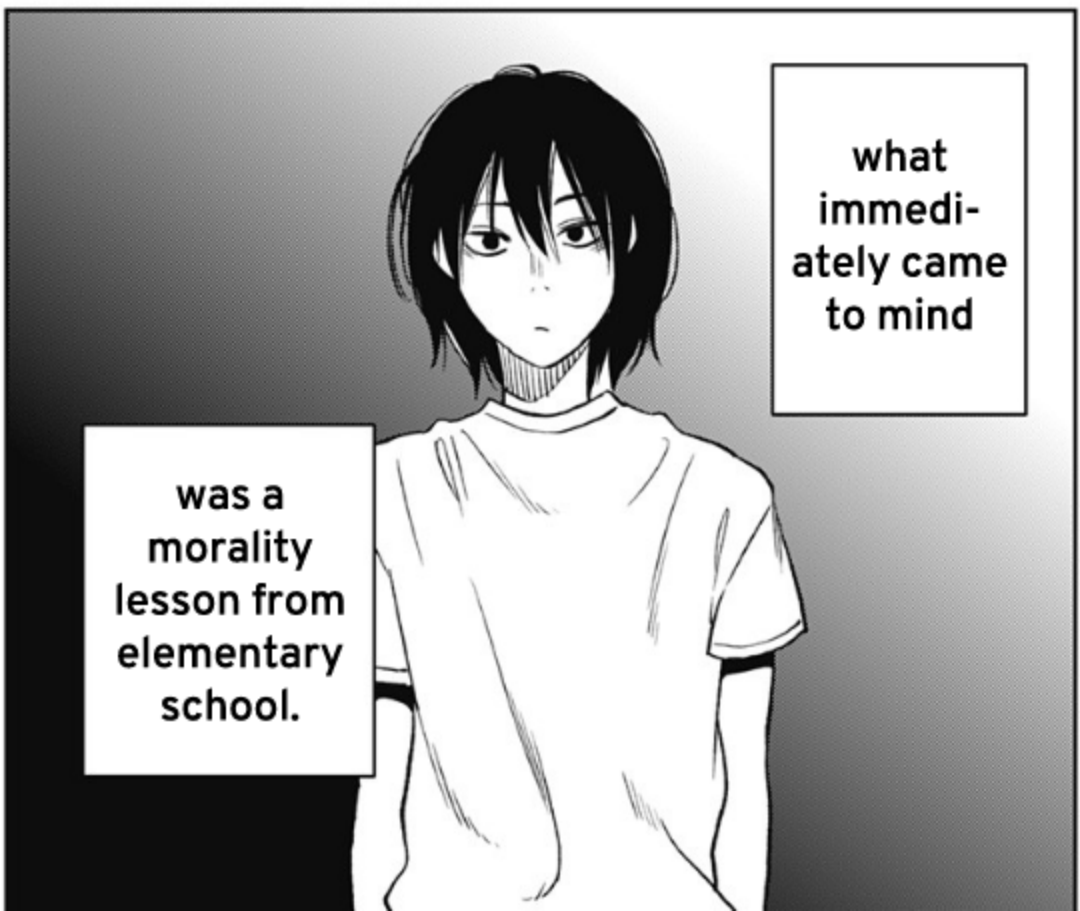
第2話
Chapter 2

I Sold Off My Lifespan,
For 10,000 Yen A Year.

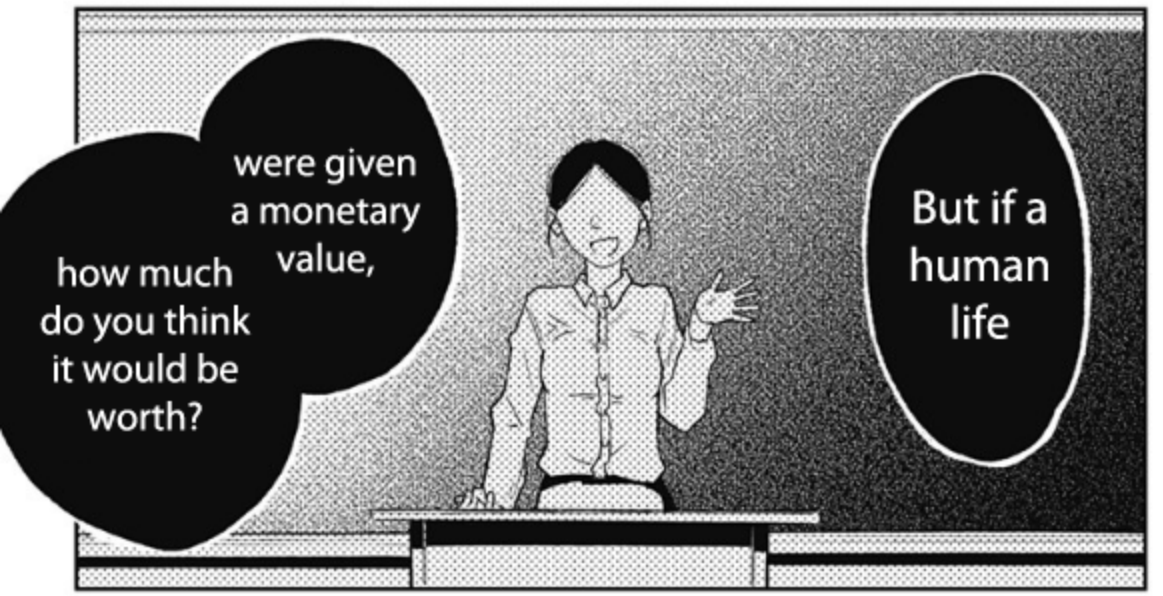
Original: Sugaru Miaki **Manga:** Shoichi Taguchi
("Three Days of Happiness" from Media Works Bunko)
Character Design: E9L / Shoichi Taguchi

原作：三秋縋(みあきすがる) 漫画：田口囁一(たぐちしょういち)
（メディアワークス文庫「三日間の幸福」）
キャラクターデザイン：E9L・田口囁一

When they first mentioned "selling lifespan,"
click clack
Your evaluation will take about three hours.

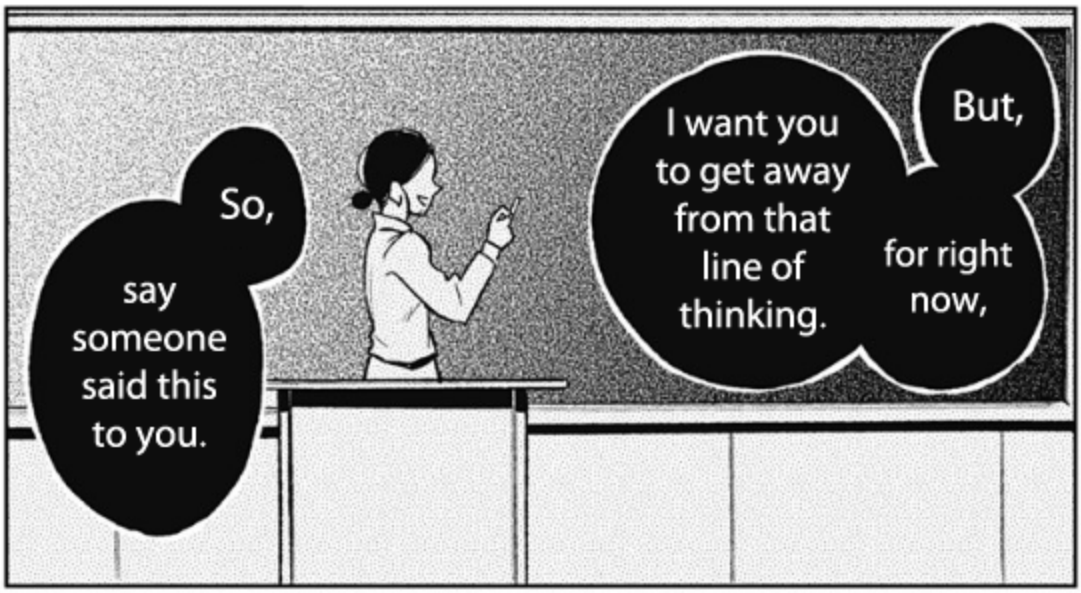

what immedi-ately came to mind
was a morality lesson from elementary school.

You've all been told
that it's something that can't be replaced,
and that it's more valuable than anything.


But if a human life
were given a monetary value,
how much do you think it would be worth?

I know.
A salaryman, over the course of their life,
earns about 100 million to 300 million yen.
That's what I read in a book once.
The class's biggest smart-aleck answered.

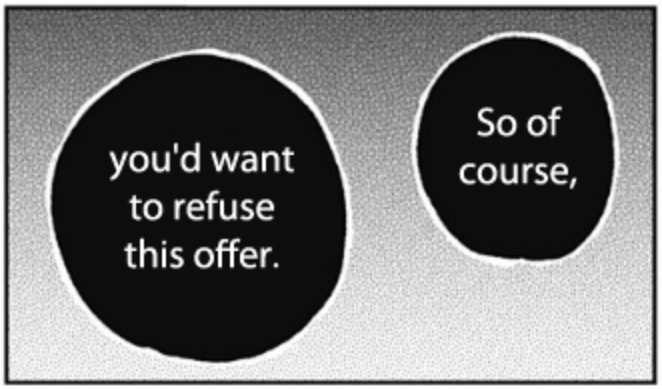
you might get that same answer.
Even if you asked an adult,
well...


So, say someone said this to you.
I want you to get away from that line of thinking.
But, for right now,

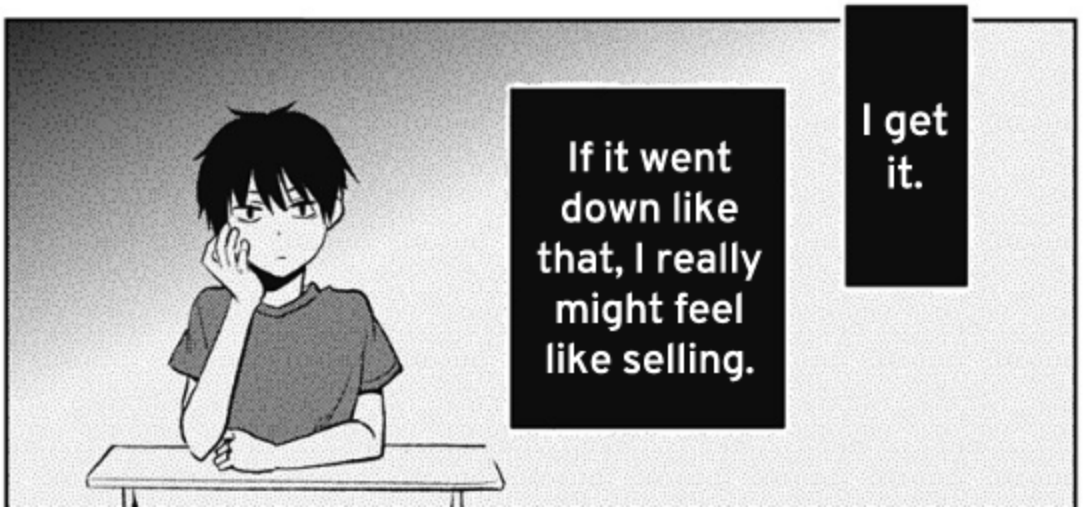
Would ya let me have it all for myself?"
"Hey. That life you're gonna lead...

You'd die, surely.

And what would happen if I did sell it?

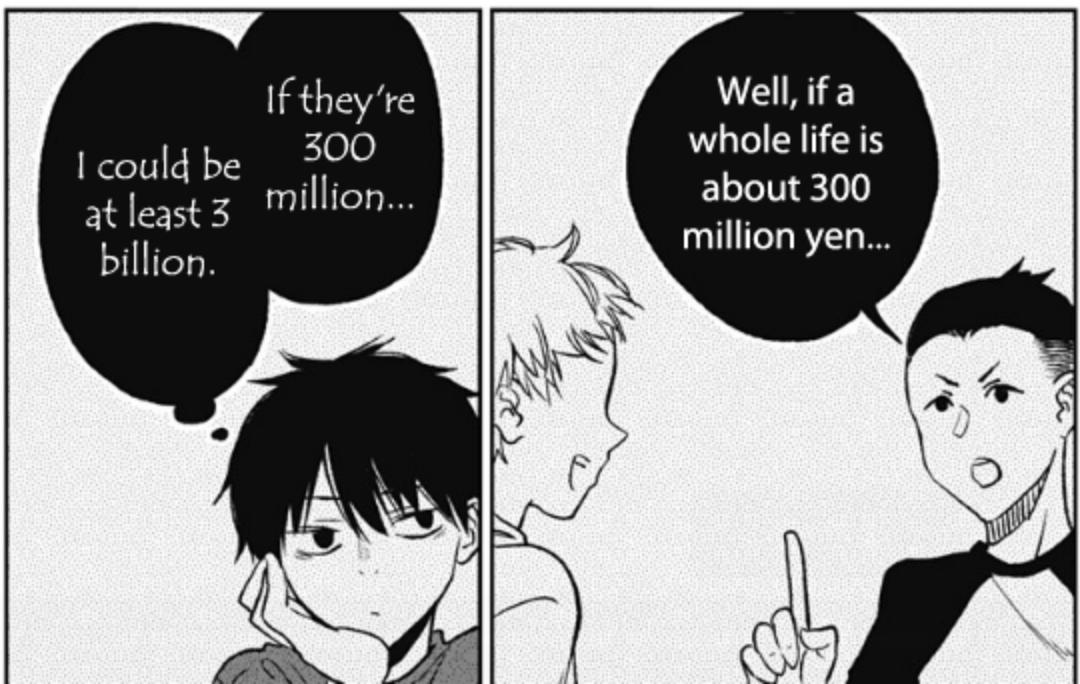

you'd want to refuse this offer.
So of course,

But it would keep hanging on.
"Well, just half is fine.
Wanna just sell me thirty years
off the sixty you have left?"

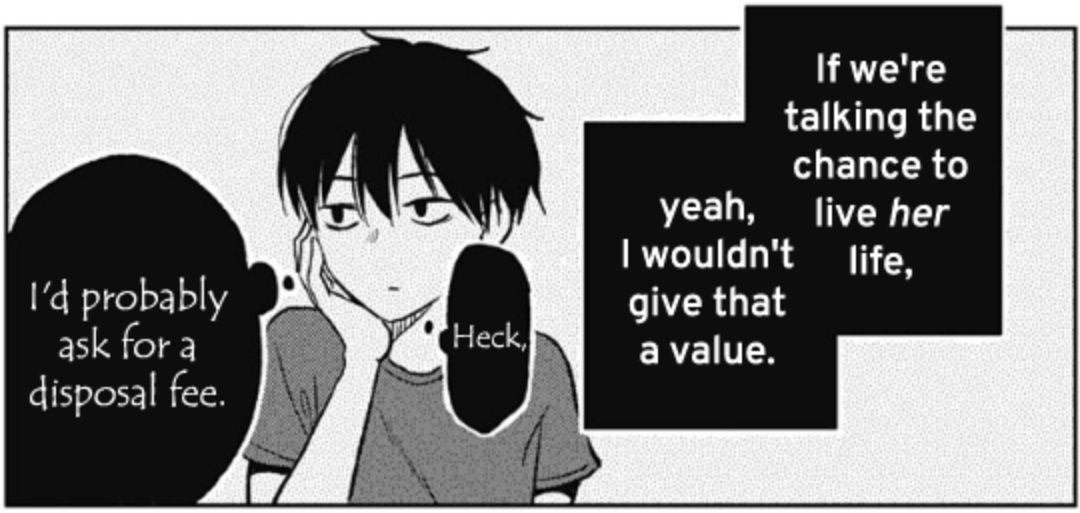

I get it.
If it went down like that, I really might feel like selling.

Now,
here's the question.
It would have to assign
a per-year value to your lifespan, yes?

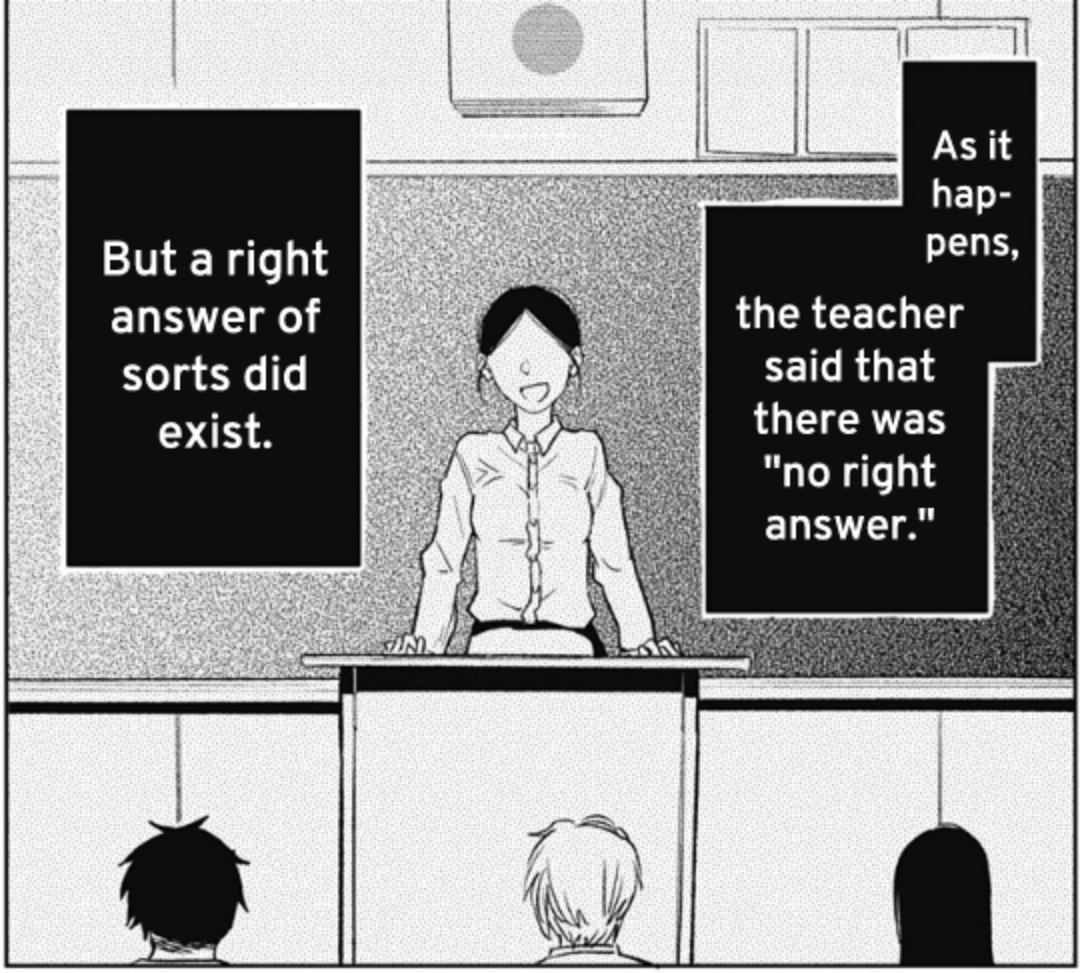
I'll tell you in advance,
there's no right answer.
But I want to know how you came to your answer.
murmur
ざわ
murmur
ざわ

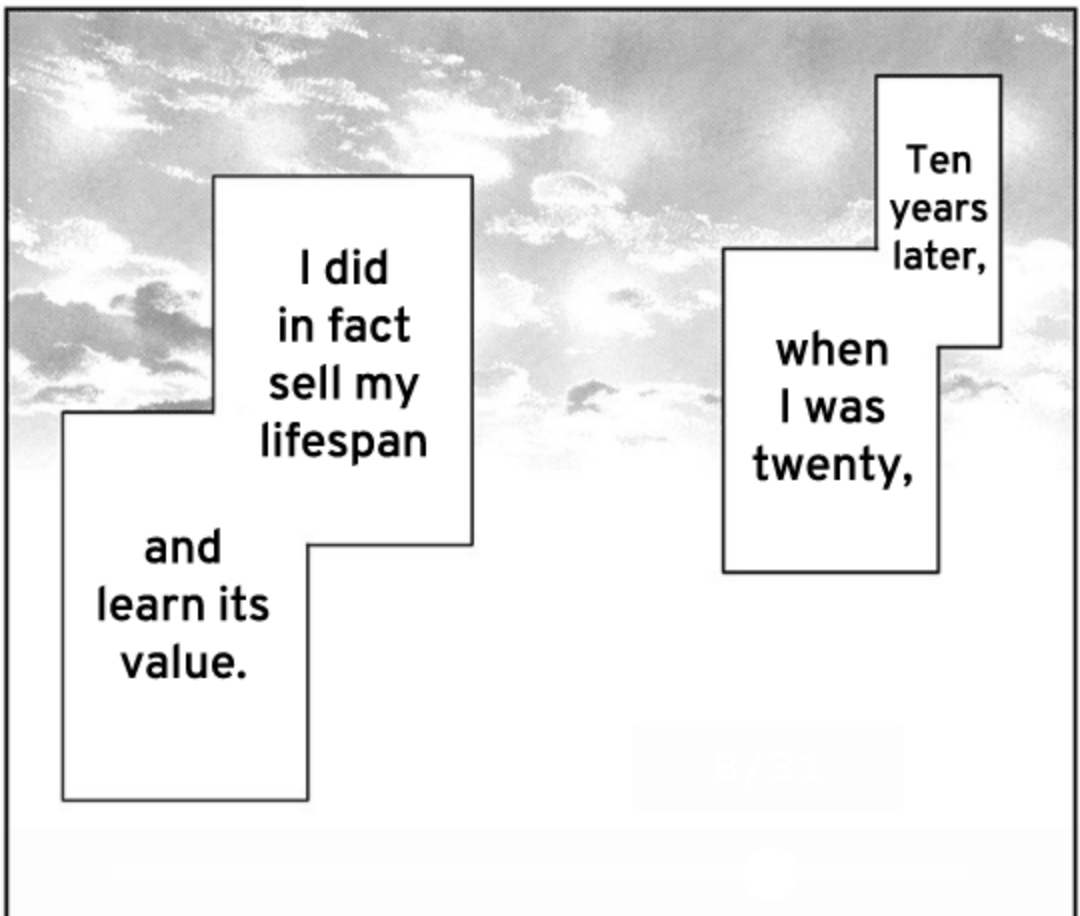

Well, if a whole life is about 300 million yen...
If they're 300 million...
I could be at least 3 billion.

...said one girl with gloomy prospects.
You can't assign a value to a person's life!


I'd probably ask for a disposal fee.
Heck,
yeah, I wouldn't give that a value.
If we're talking the chance to live *her* life,

and had a self-depre-cating laugh about it.
thought similarly to me,
The wise-cracking clown you get in every class
Ha-ha-ha!
you guys wouldn't even pay 300 yen, would you?
But if I were selling my life,

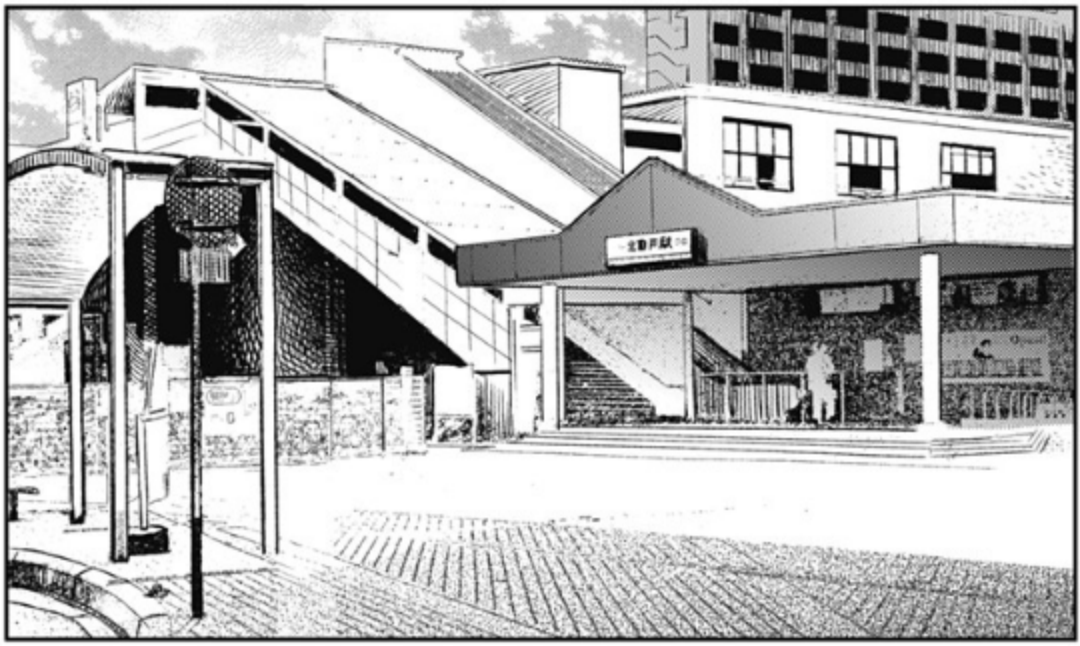

But a right answer of sorts did exist.
As it hap-pens,
the teacher said that there was "no right answer."


Ten years later,
when I was twenty,
I did in fact sell my lifespan
and learn its value.

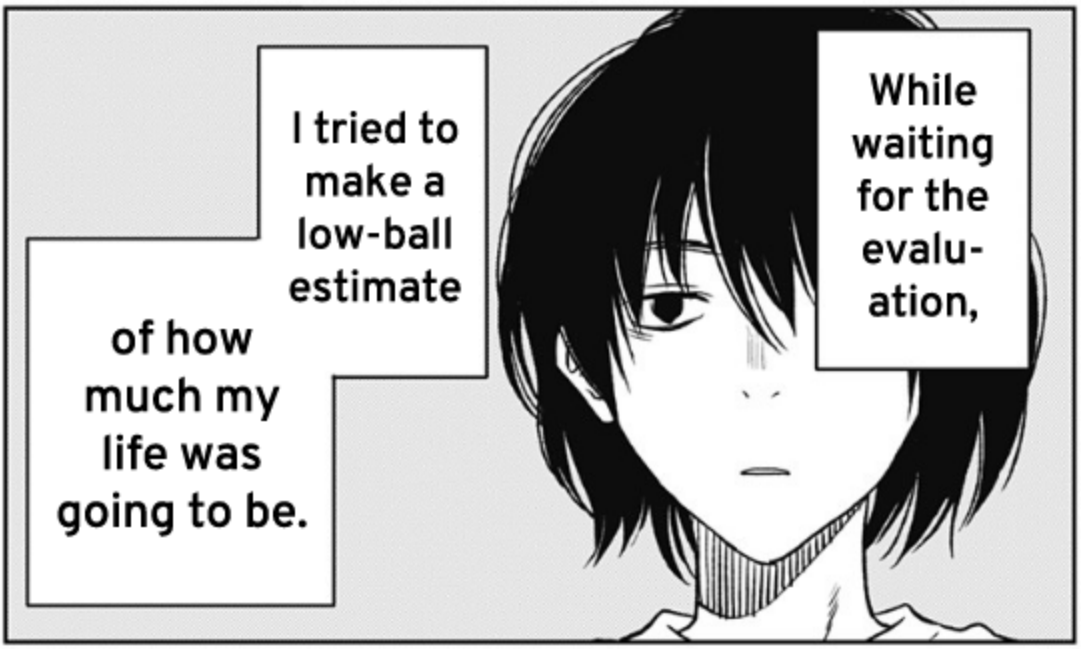
ぐぅ
rumble...

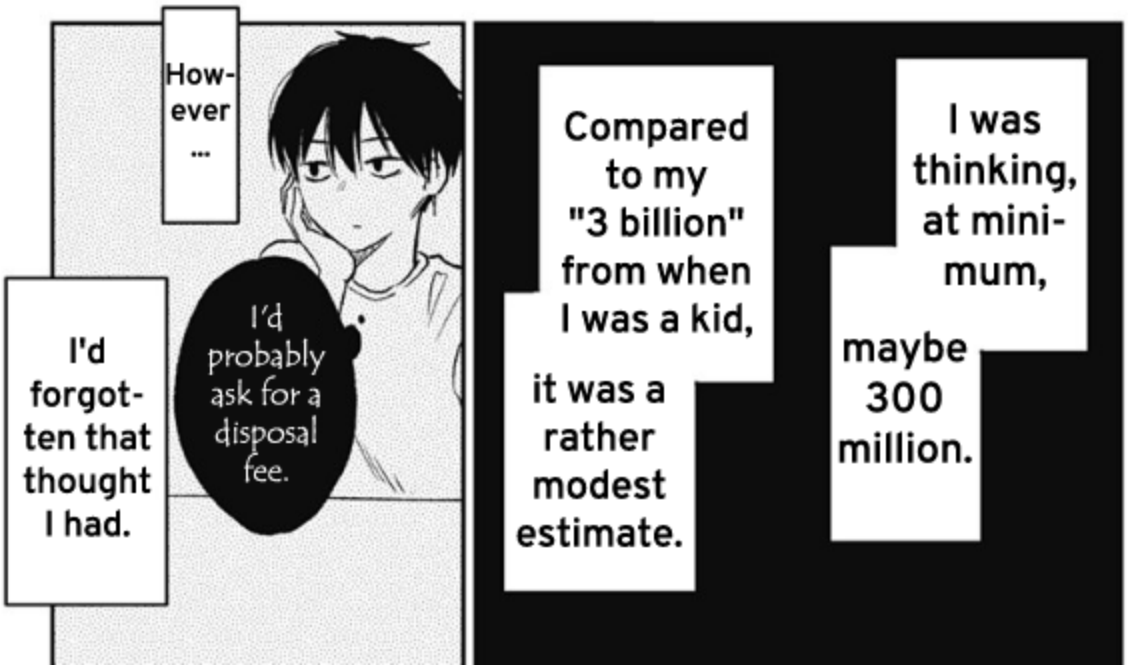
...

会社
ALBION
さんろーど
KIRIN



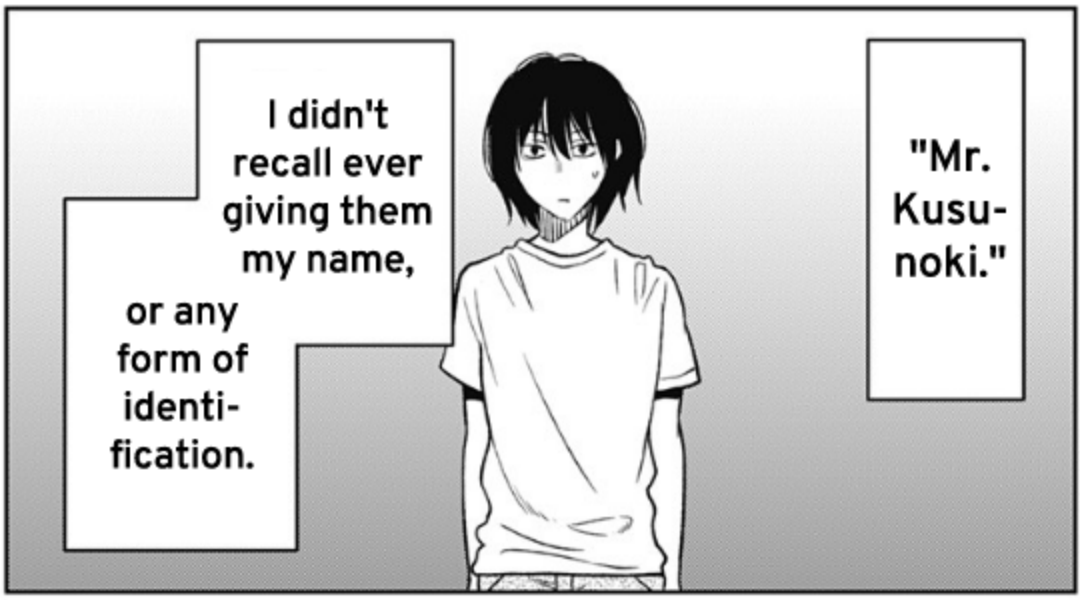
I hope it sells for a lot...

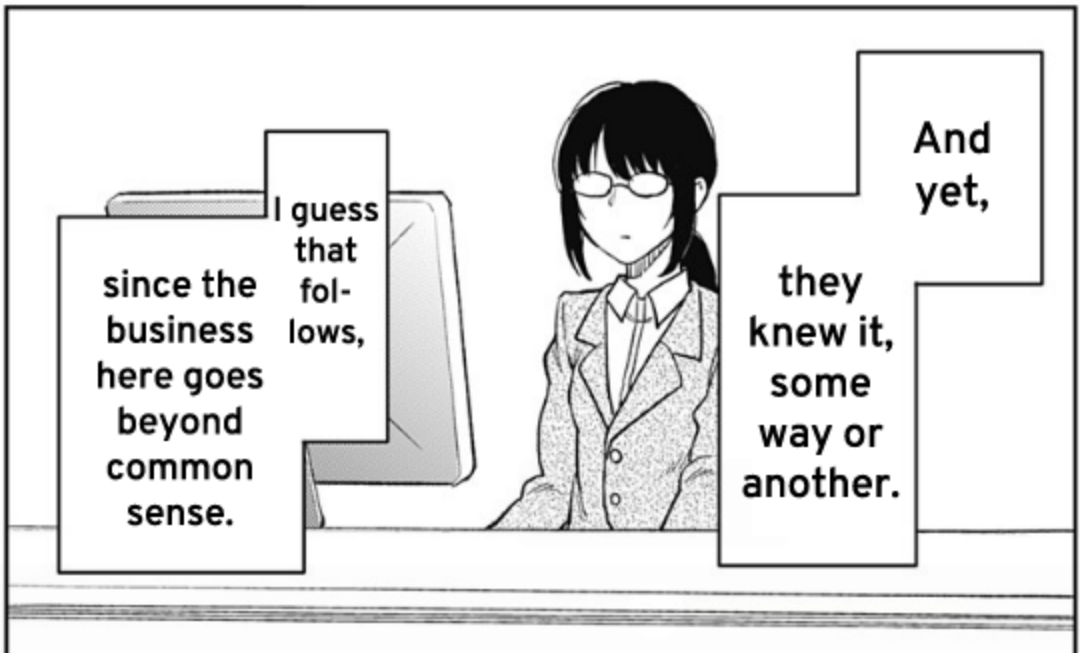

While waiting for the evalu-ation,
I tried to make a low-ball estimate of how much my life was going to be.


I was thinking, at mini-mum, maybe 300 million.
Compared to my "3 billion" from when I was a kid, it was a rather modest estimate.
How-ever ...
I'd probably ask for a disposal fee.
I'd forgot-ten that thought I had.

Your evaluation has been completed.

Mr. Kusunoki.



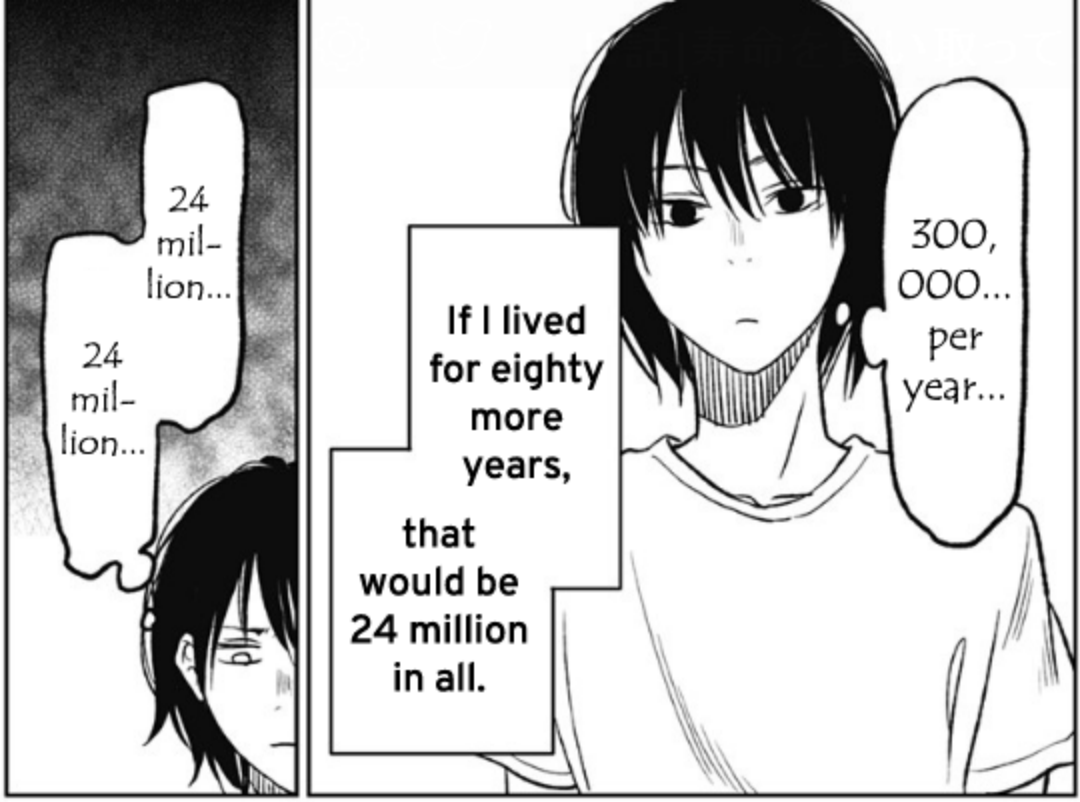


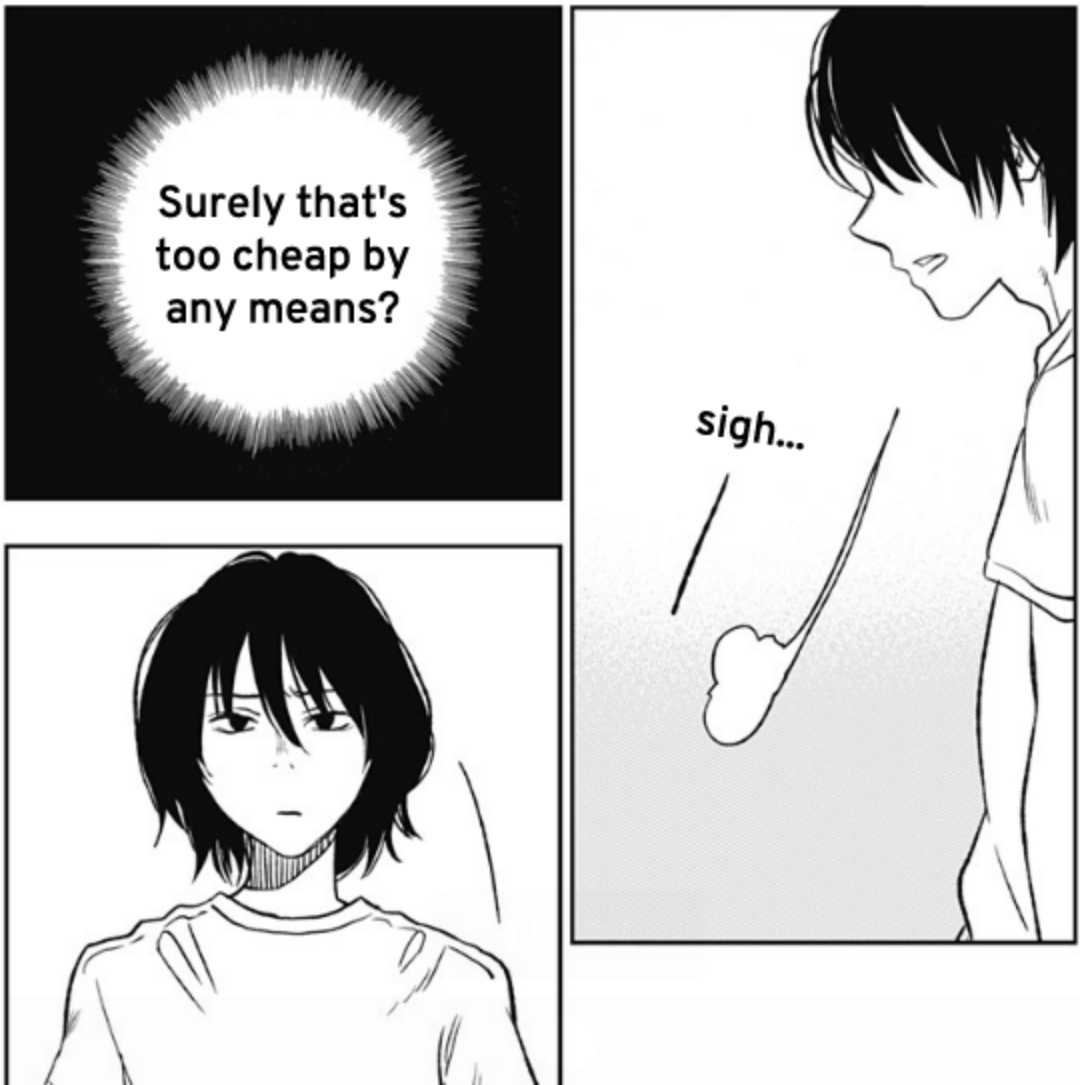
...
3...

...

3 billion ...!!
My childhood estimate
was right on...!

clack
カタ
カタ
clack
...
zrrrrr
ジ ジ ジ ジ
These are your results...
Estimate
Mr. Kusunoki
Estimated Value ￥300,000
What would you like to do?


300,
000...
per
year...
If I lived for eighty more years,
that would be 24 million in all.
24
mil-
lion...
24
mil-
lion...


sigh...
Surely that's too cheap by any means?

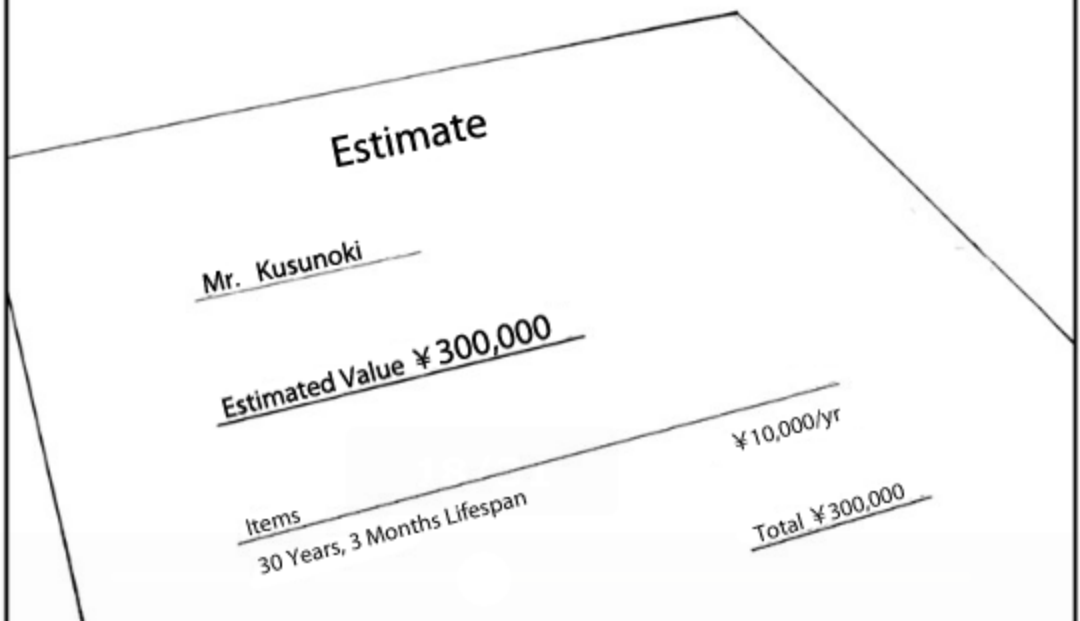
...?

...
Concerning your per-year value...
I guess I'll just have to take 24 million...
...

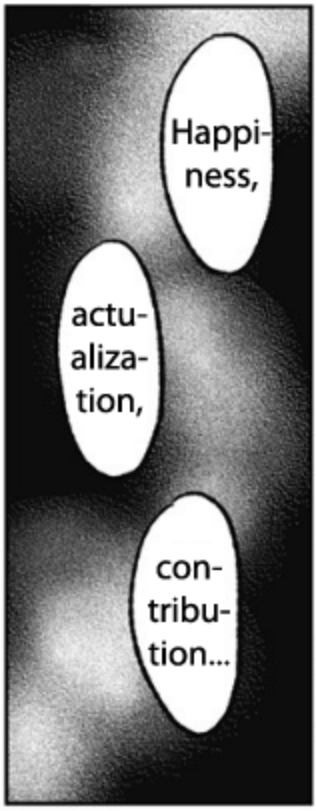
You were given the bare minimum of *10,000 yen.*
And as you have thirty years and three months remaining...
You will be able
to leave here with up to *300,000 yen.*

There on the form
were my results,

many orders of magnitude
below my expectations.



about your standards.
...I want to know more


Happiness,
actualization,
contribution...

Sigh...
The detailed evaluations are carried out by a separate consulting body,
so I don't know the specifics myself.

The degree to which such factors are present
can greatly affect the value.
Or so I hear.

How happy a life it is,
how it makes others happy,
In short,
the value of your remaining years is...
so on and so forth...
These things decide the value.
won't make anyone happy,
how much it contri-butes to society,
If I won't be happy,
how many dreams are ach-ieved,
won't achieve any dreams,
won't contribute to society...
Where can I look to for salvation...?

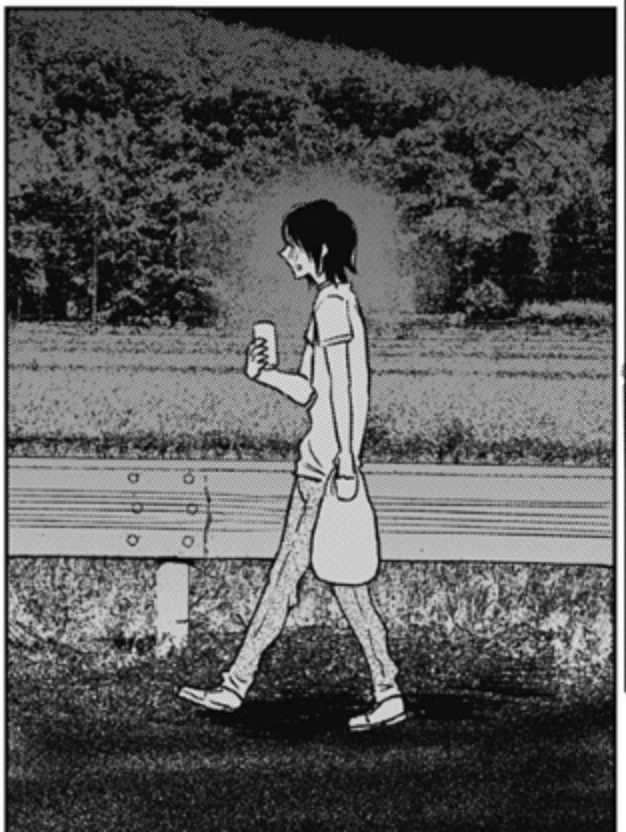
Ulti-
mately,

I sold off
all thirty
years,

keeping
only three
months.

グビ

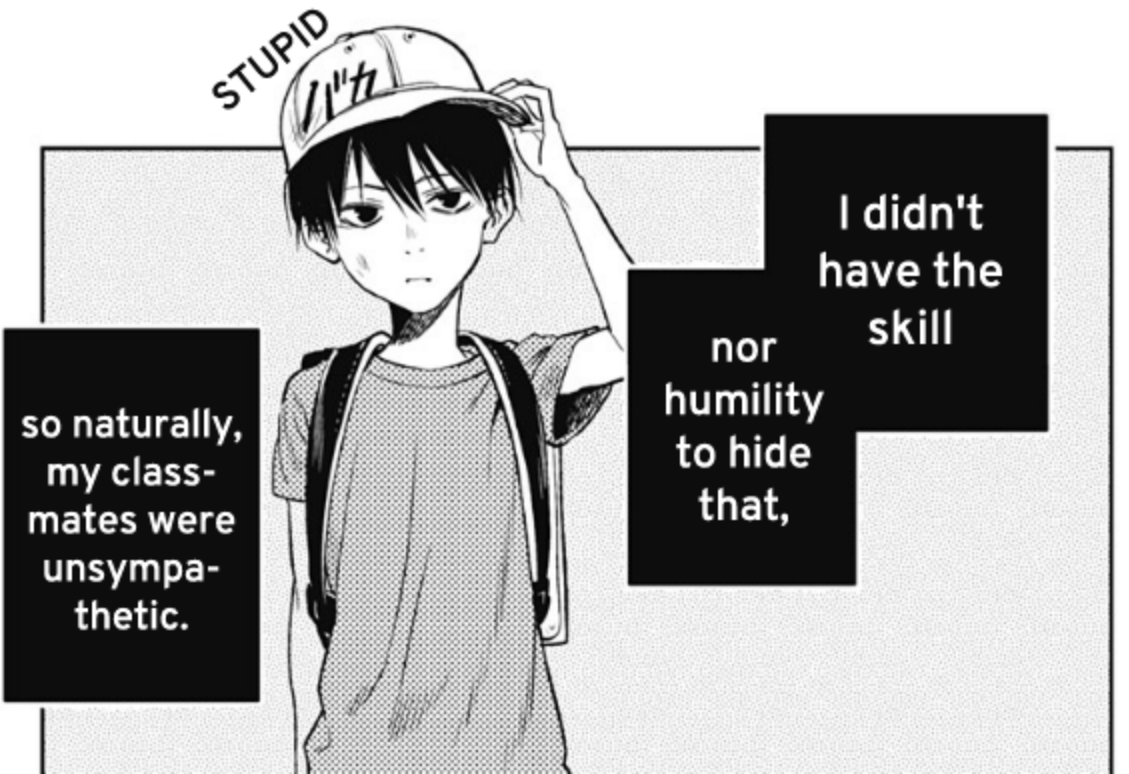
…



When I was a kid,

I thought I'd grow up to be famous.

I looked down on the children around me.



I always got perfect scores on tests,
but I wasn't the only one who could do that.

Yes,
so could that "smart-aleck,"
Hime-no.

Because of the other, neither of us could be number one.
So at least on the surface, we quarreled.

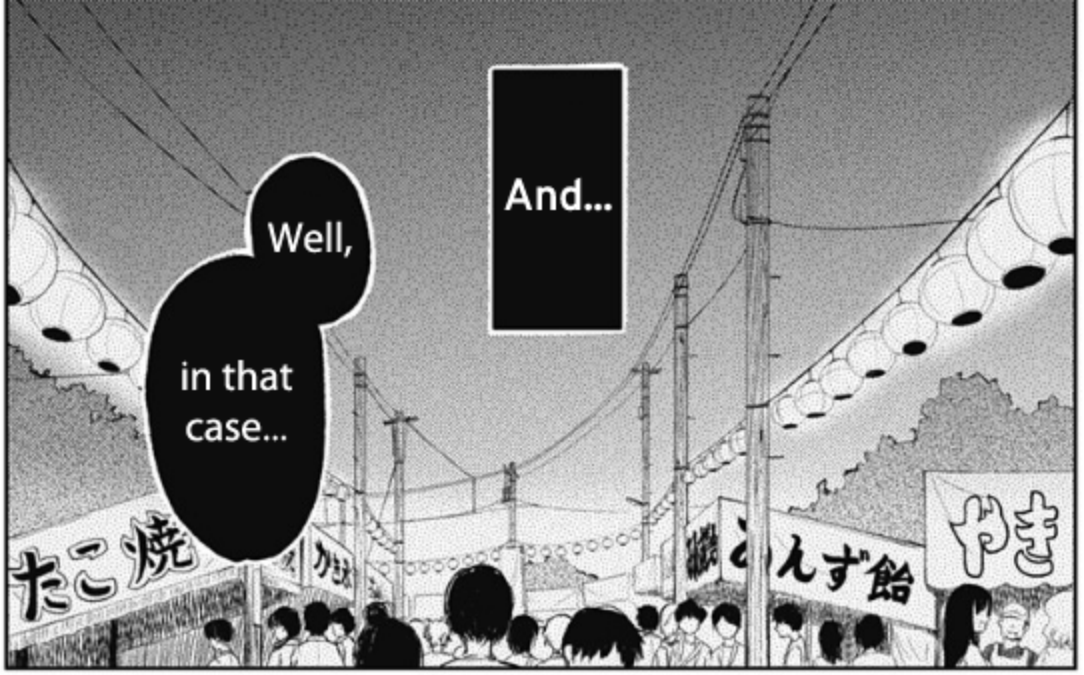
On the other hand,

we were the only ones who could talk to each other on our same level.

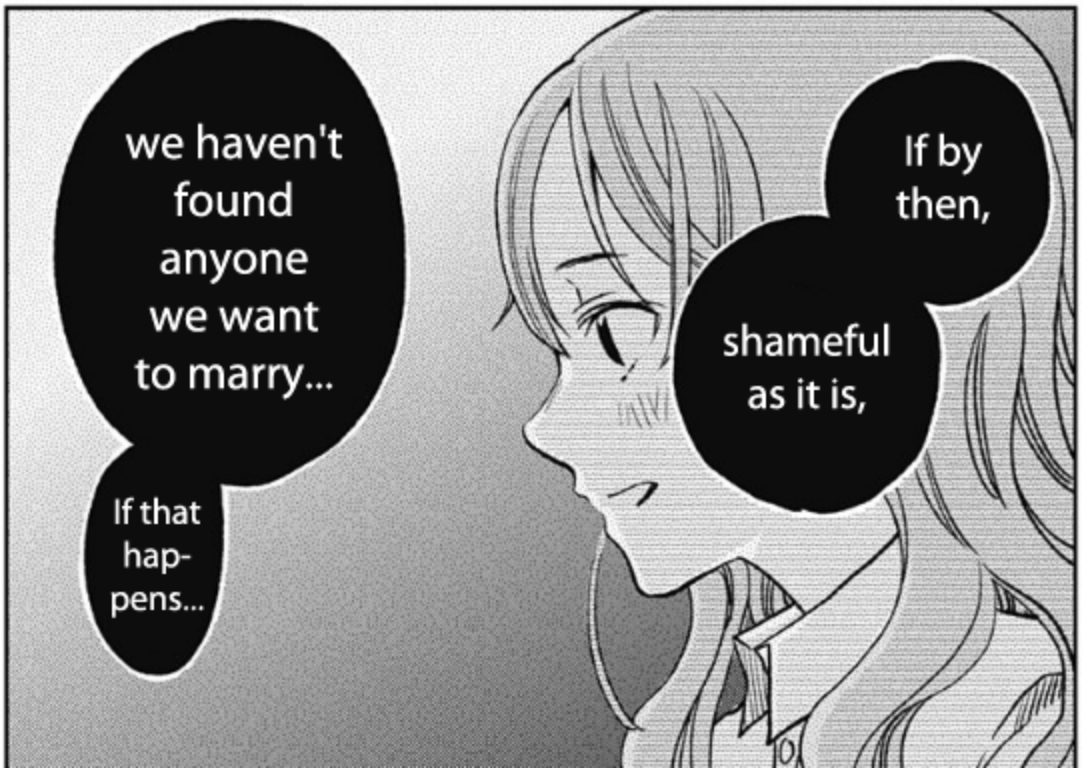
And in fact,

our houses were very close, and our parents were friends, so we'd played together since infancy.

I suppose the term "childhood friends" would apply.


Well,
in that case...
And...
たこ焼
やき

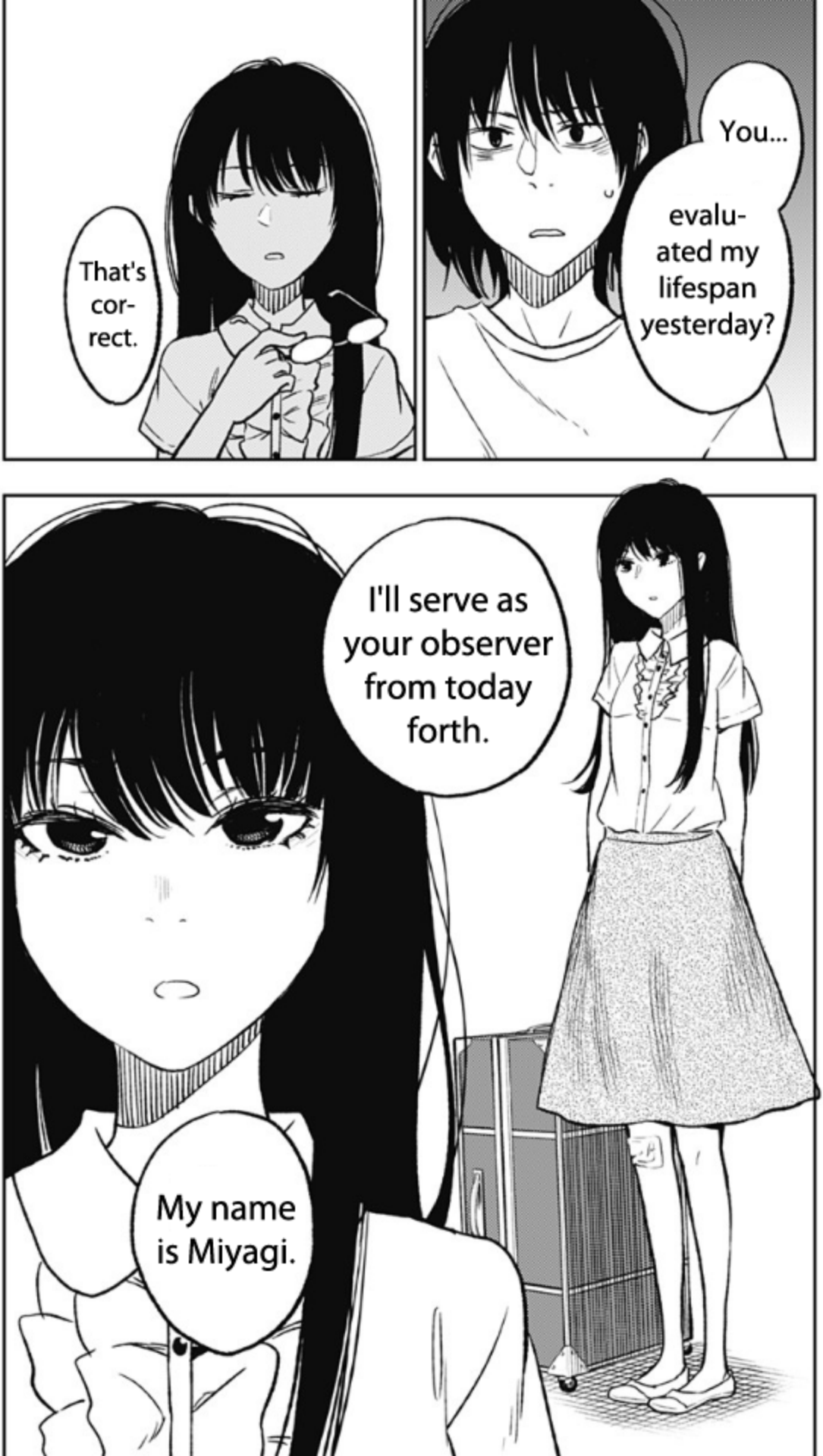
When we turn twenty, and get famous...
that brought us to this.


we haven't found anyone we want to marry...
If that hap-pens...
If by then,
shameful as it is,

ピーンポーン

ding dong

And you would be...?
...


That's cor-rect.
You... evalu-ated my lifespan yesterday?
I'll serve as your observer from today forth.
My name is Miyagi.

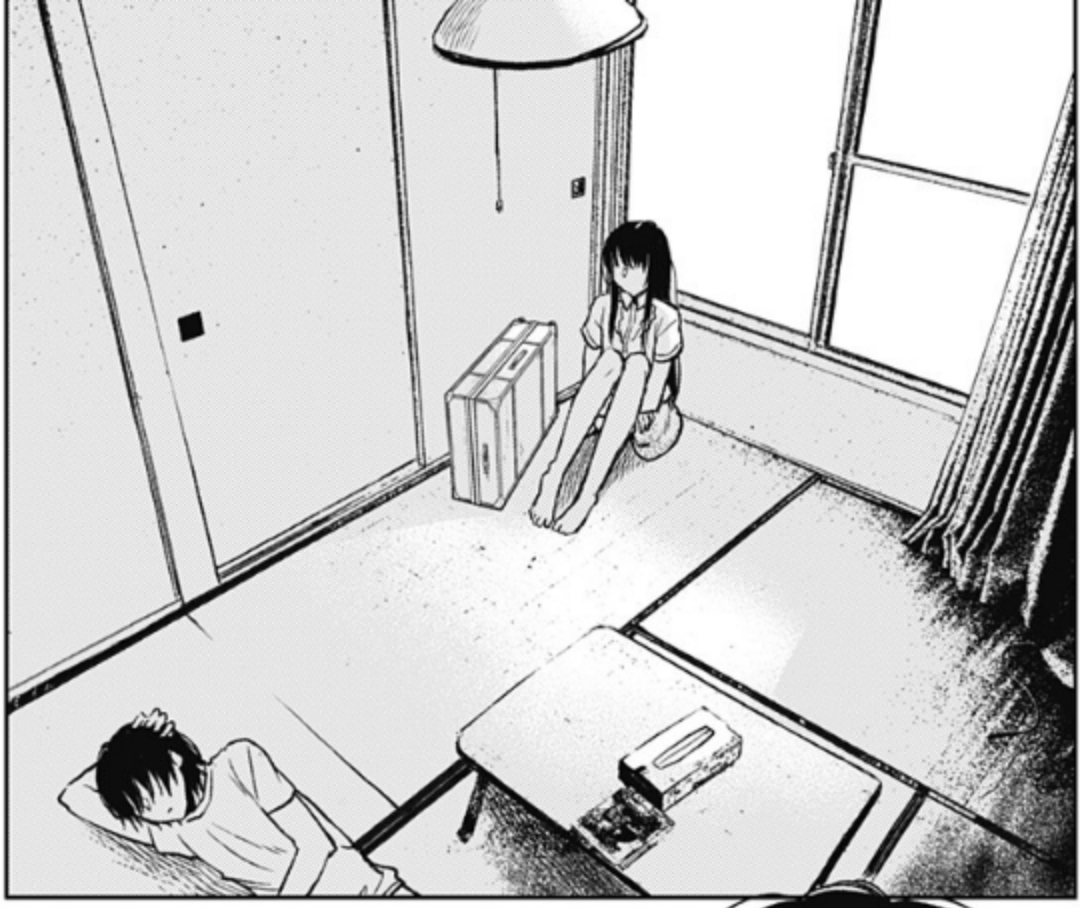
While I also explained it yesterday,
since your lifespan is now less than a year,
I will be observing you starting today.
There-fore...
And so...
urk
Can this wait until later?
The last three months of my life began
Under-stood.
thump *thump*
huuuurk...
in pretty much the worst possible way.
Later, then.

寿命を買い取ってもらった。一年につき、一万円で。

I Sold Off My Lifespan, For 10,000 Yen A Year.

Chapter 3

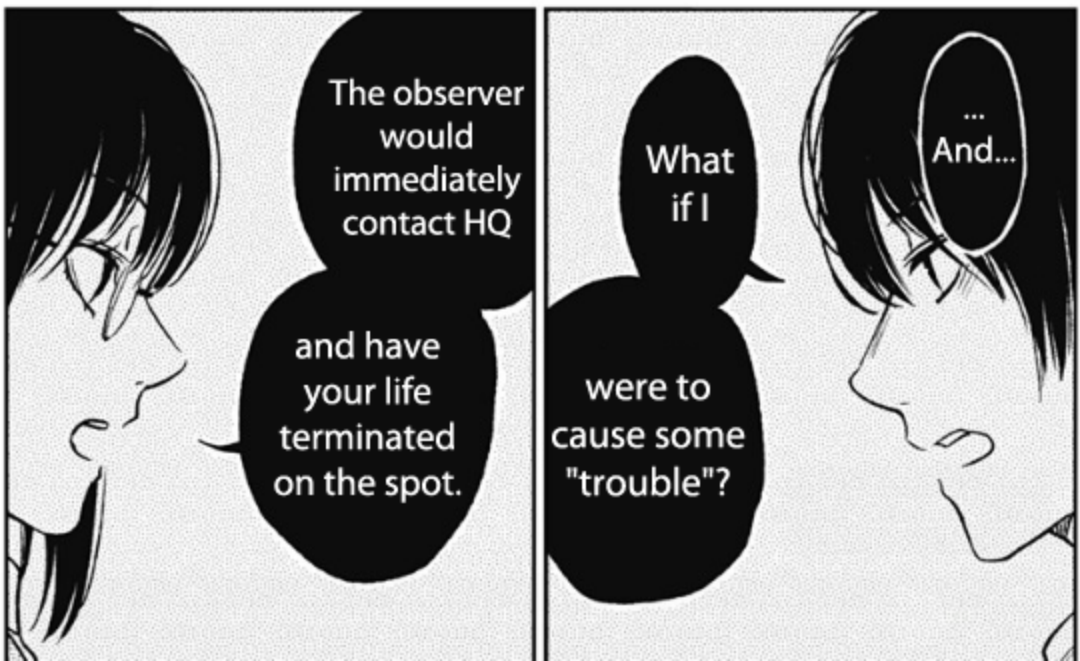
Original: Sugaru Miaki **Manga:** Shoichi Taguchi
("Three Days of Happiness" from Media Works Bunko)
Character Design: E9L / Shoichi Taguchi



I sold off all but three months of my life.
Then, the next day,
a girl came to my room.

Many people who sell their lifespans here,
once they're down to a year left,
suddenly become desperate
and start to cause trouble.

To protect against such situations,
we have established what is called...
the "observer" system.


... And...
What if I
were to cause some "trouble"?
The observer would immediately contact HQ
and have your life terminated on the spot.

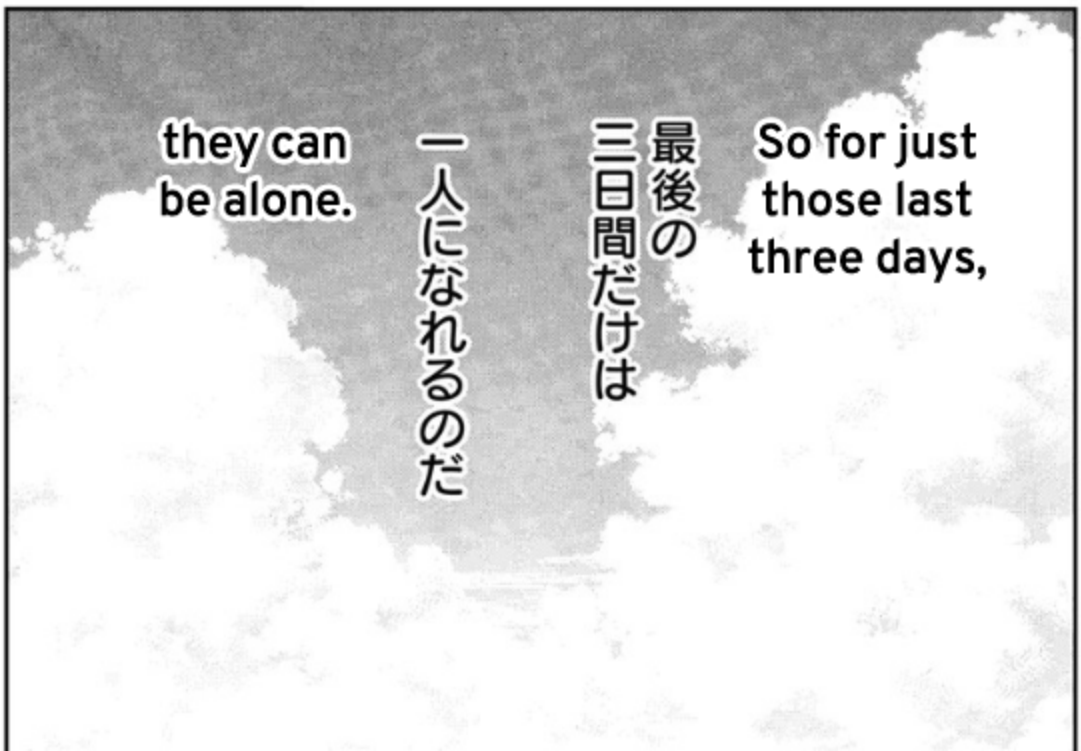
つまりこの女の子は監視員
電話一本で俺の命を奪えるということだ
Which meant this "observer" was one phone call away from ending my life.

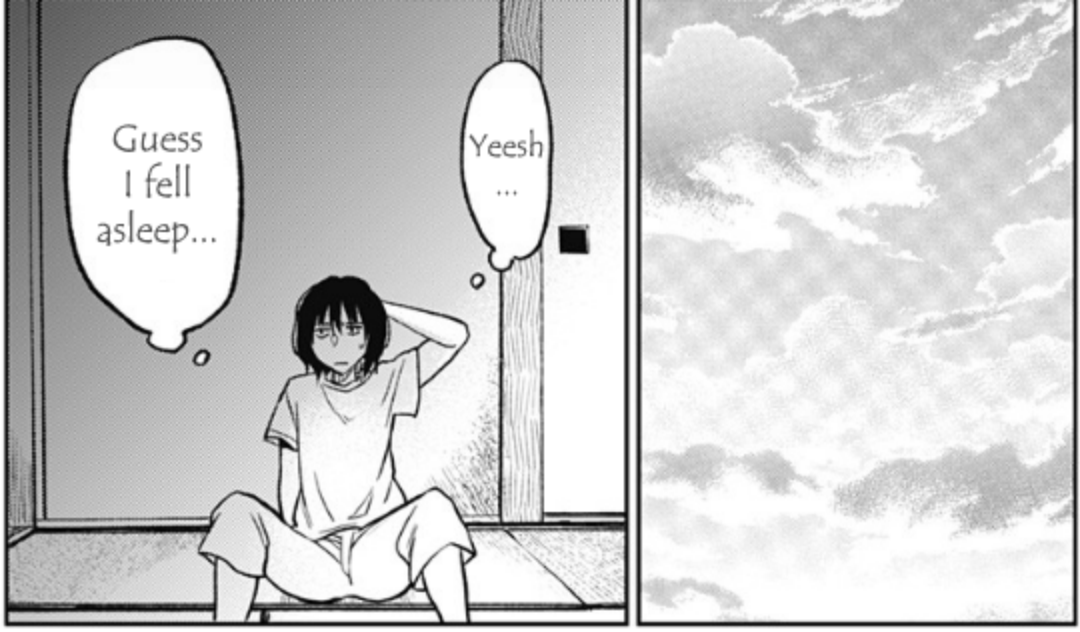
チラッ
glance

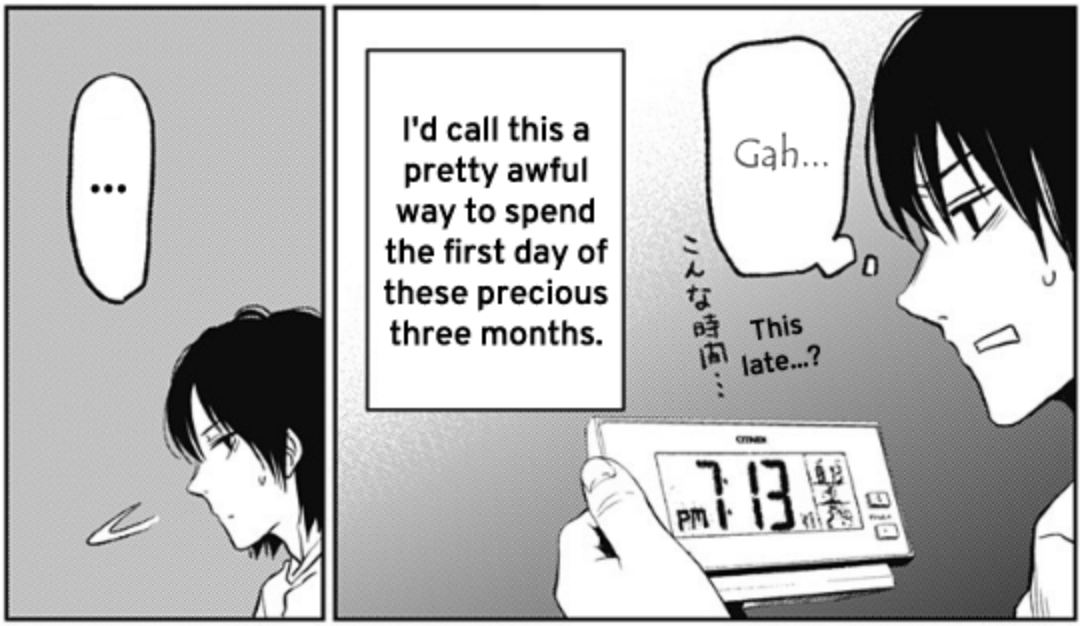
As if I can do that!!
conduct yourself as you usually would.
Sim-ply...
It's perfectly fine if you just pretend I'm not here.

I explained this yesterday as well,
but for your last three days,
I will cease my observation.
Please endure until then.

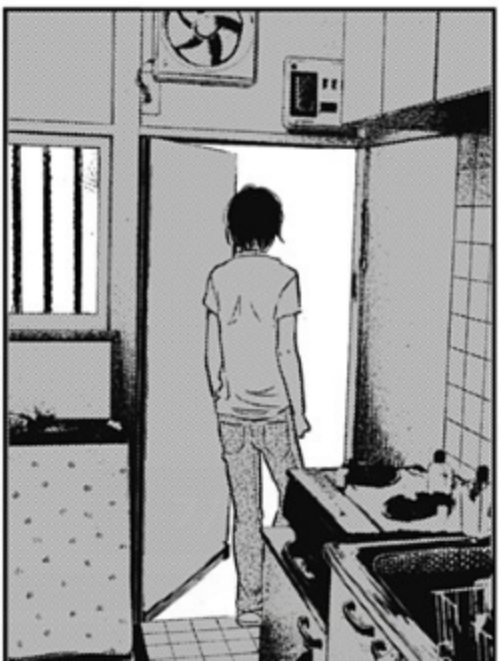
When people only have a few days left,
maybe due to resignation,
they apparently lose the will to trouble others.

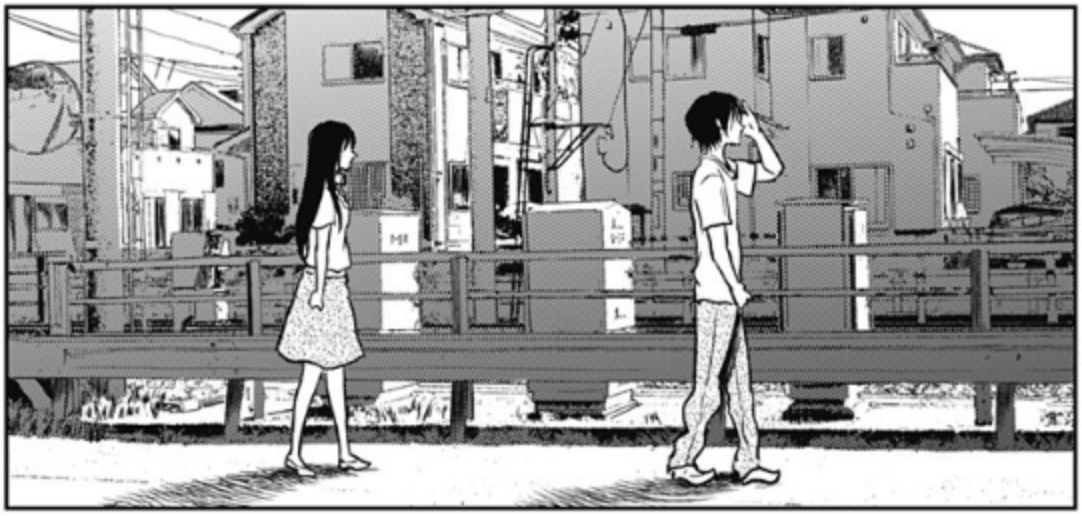

So for just those last three days,
最後の三日間だけは
一人になれるのだ
they can be alone.


Guess I fell asleep...
Yeesh ...


...
I'd call this a pretty awful way to spend the first day of these precious three months.
Gah...
こんな時間…
This late...?
PM 7:13

Don't mind her, don't mind her...

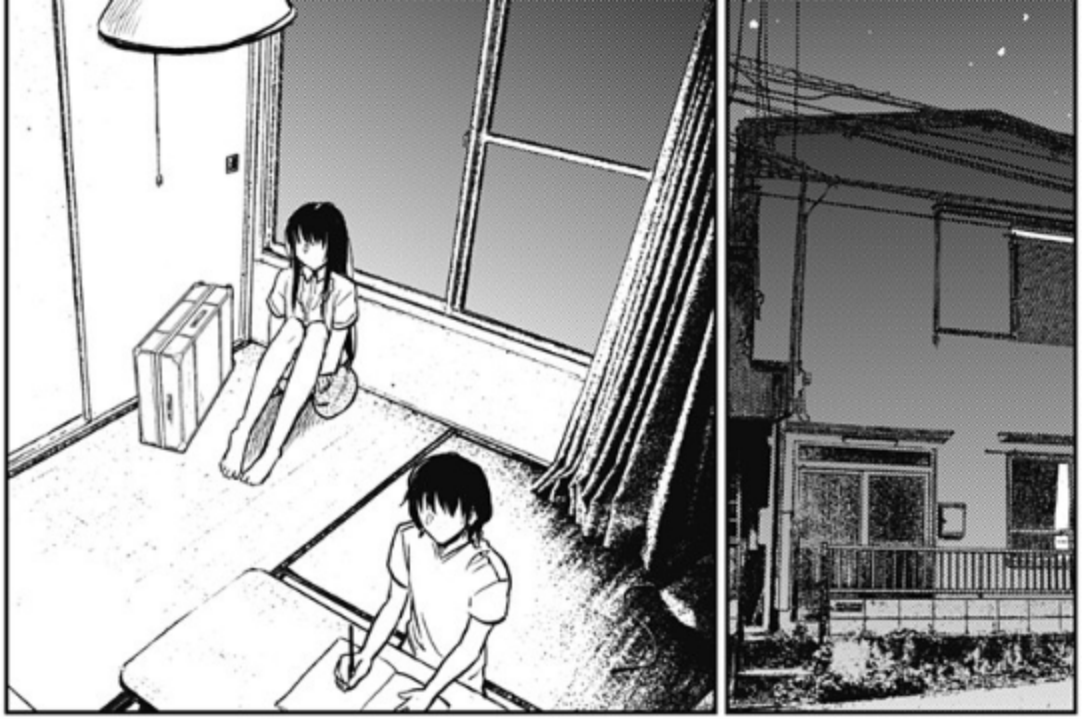




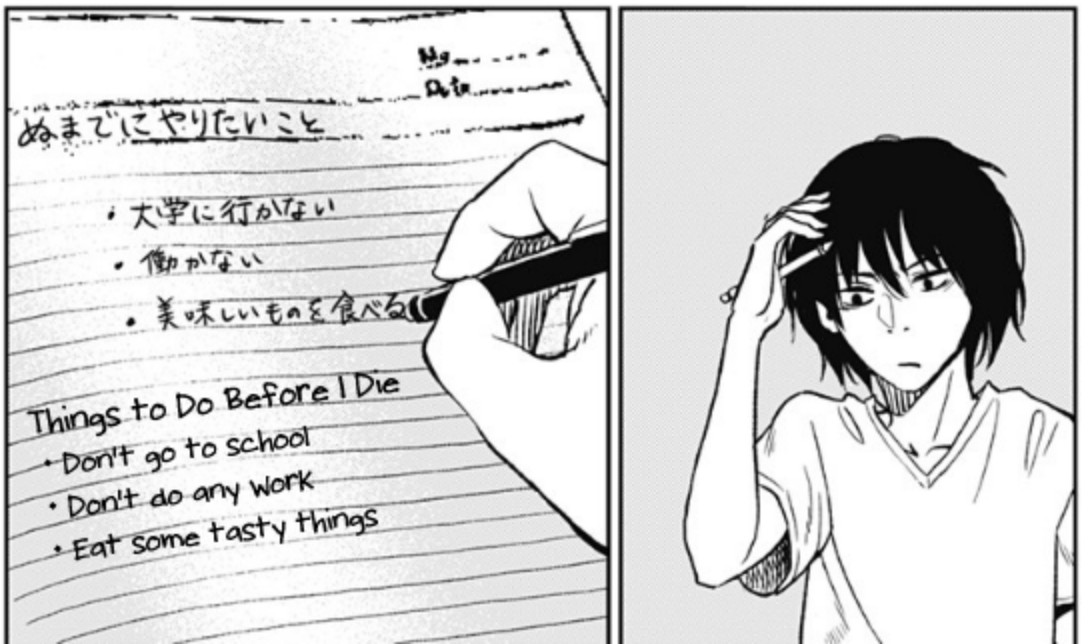
うどん
そば
10円、50円
使えません
注意

how did she intend to have meals?
With her watching me,

I didn't *really* think she had no need to eat or drink,
but she felt so inhuman that I would've believed it.

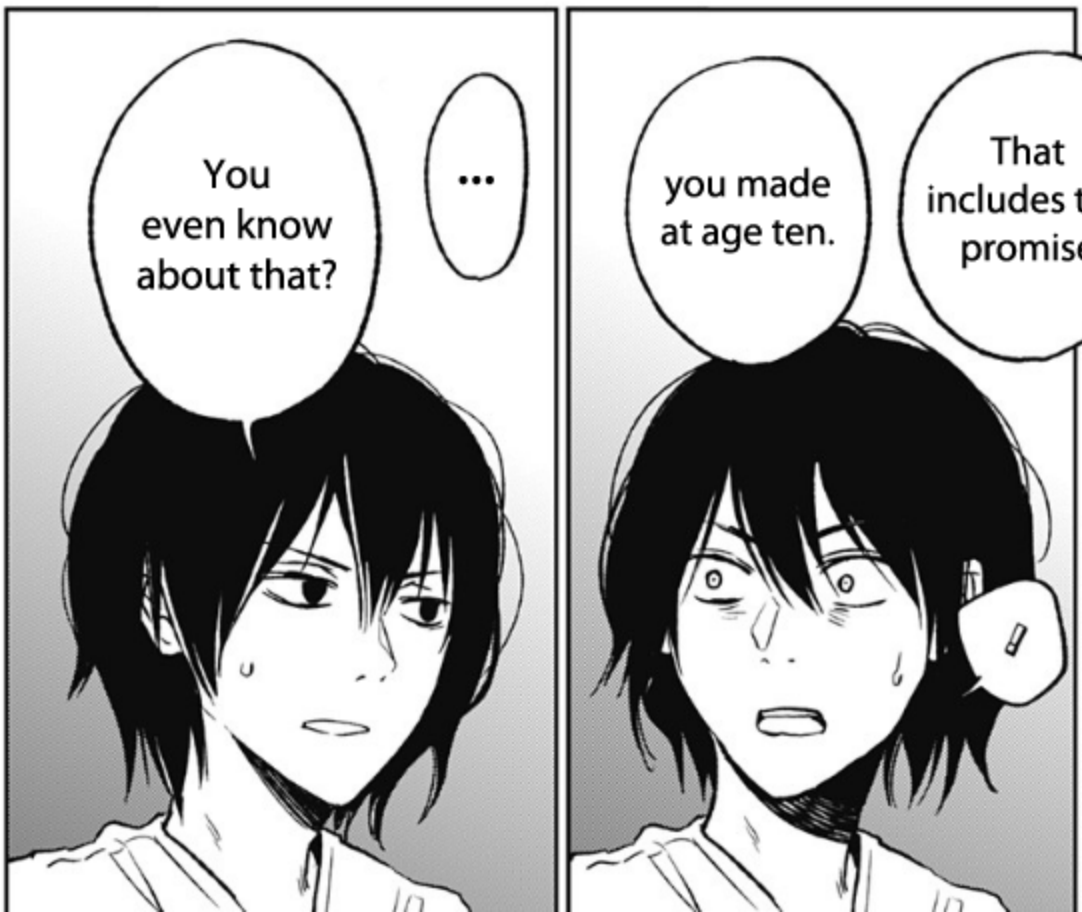


Things to do before I die...


ぬまでにやりたいこと
・大学に行かない
・働かない
・美味しいものを食べる
Things to Do Before I Die
• Don't go to school
• Don't do any work
• Eat some tasty things

Tell Himeno how I feel.
Meet and talk with Naruse...
See some beautiful things...
Write a will...
スッ
I would
suggest against that one.
• Don't go to school
• Don't do any work
• Eat some tasty things
• See some beautiful things
• Write a will
• Meet and talk with Naruse
• Tell Himeno how I feel

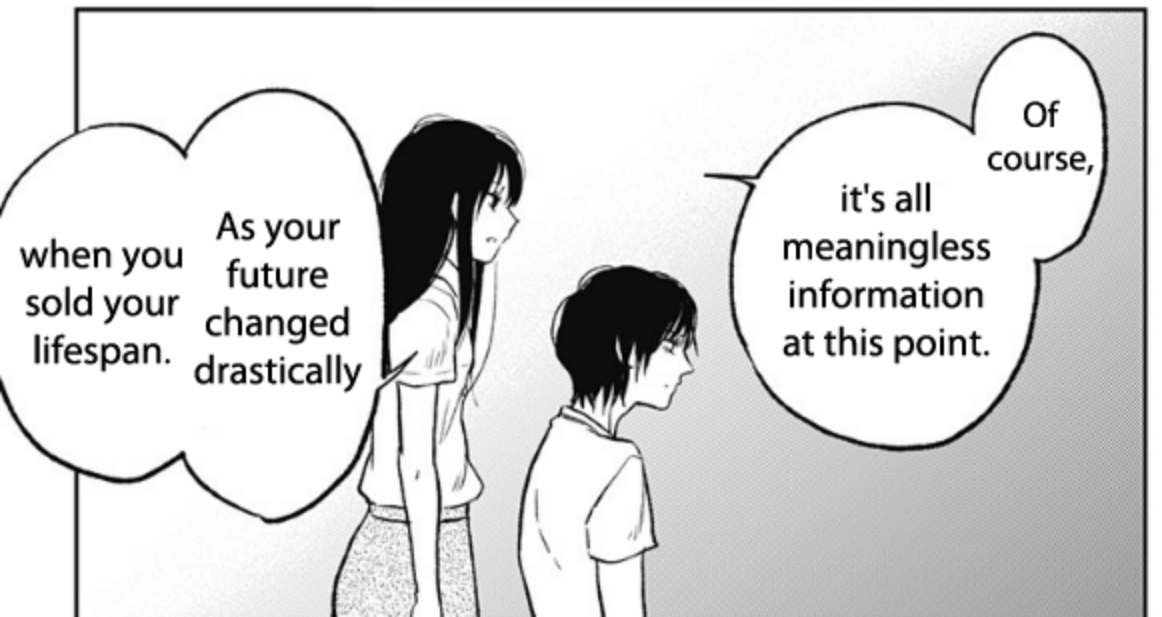
...Ms. Hime-no...
And of course...
scarcely remembers you at all.
Tell me, do you observers...
have some duty to probe and meddle?
Even into this kind of thing?

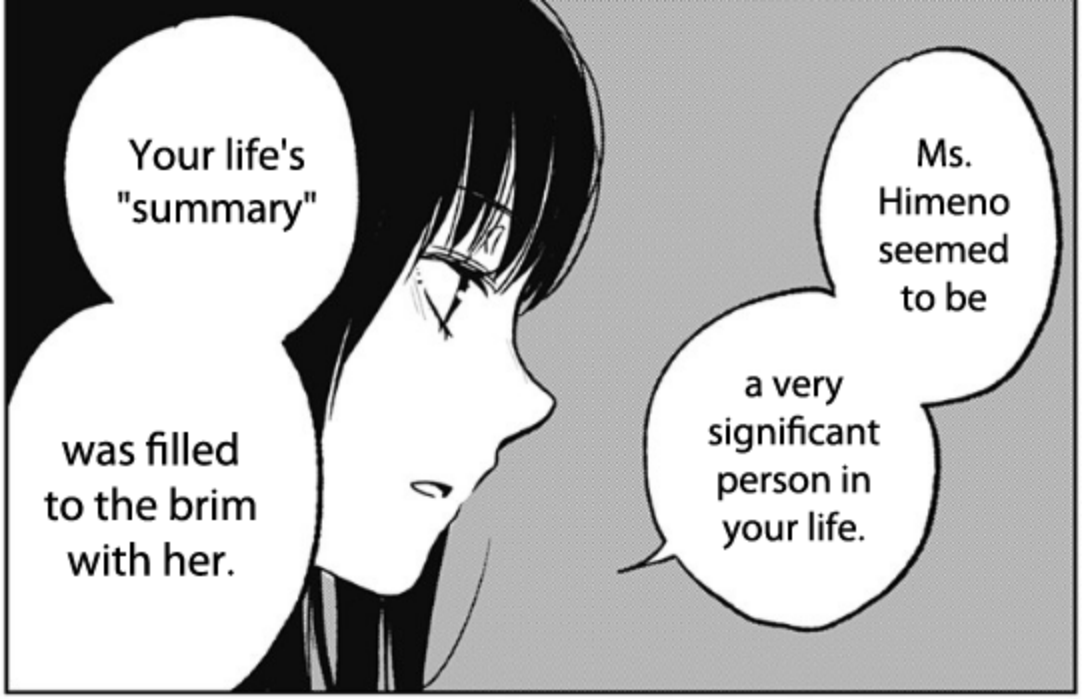

...
You even know about that?
That includes the promise
you made at age ten.
!

know everything that's going to happen?
Given the way you're talking, do you...

of what may have happened in your future life.
Mr. Kusunoki, all I know are the *possi-bilities*

...No.


when you sold your lifespan.
As your future changed drastically
Of course, it's all meaningless information at this point.


Ms. Himeno seemed to be
a very significant person in your life.
Your life's "summary"
was filled to the brim with her.

So everything else was too unimportant?
Is that what that means?

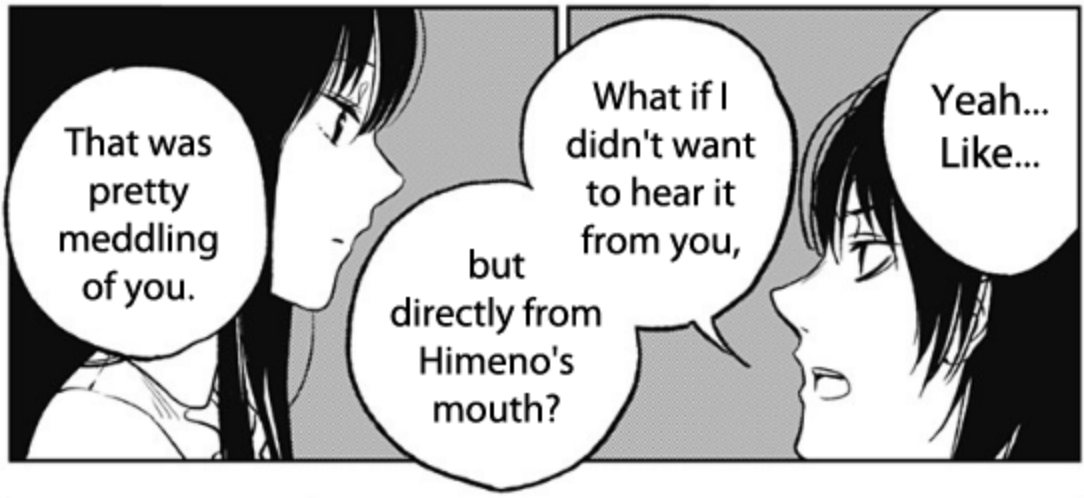
That may be.
At any rate,
if you want my opinion,
meeting Ms. Himeno would be a waste of time.

It would only spoil your memory of her.

Thanks for the concern, but
it was spoiled a long time ago.

Look, maybe you're telling me this 'cause you're trying to protect me from getting hurt.
But...

my "freedom to get hurt and despair"?
Couldn't you say
that such an action is taking away


That was pretty meddling of you.
but directly from Himeno's mouth?
What if I didn't want to hear it from you,
Yeah... Like...

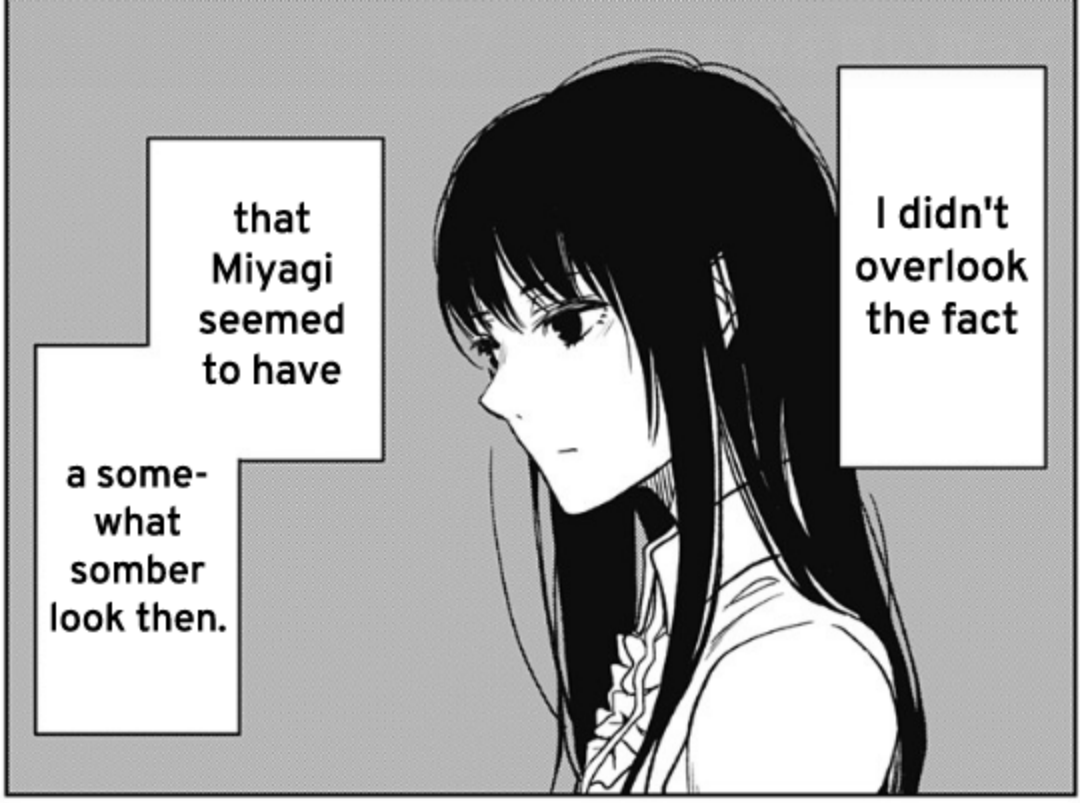
Well, I had only good intentions.
Is that so.
sigh.

I must apologize.

So,
in deference to your, ah,
"freedom to get hurt and despair,"
I will refrain from meddling
in any of the other items on your list.

Do as you please.
So long as it does not trouble others,
simply pursue what you want.
I will not stop you.

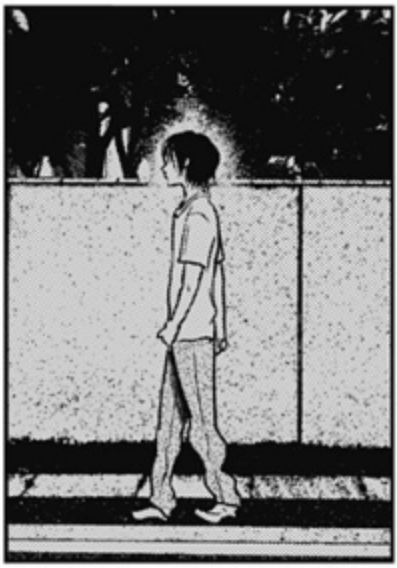
That's what I was gonna do anyway.


I didn't overlook the fact
that Miyagi seemed to have
a some-what somber look then.

How-ever,
I didn't give any deep thought
into what that expression meant.

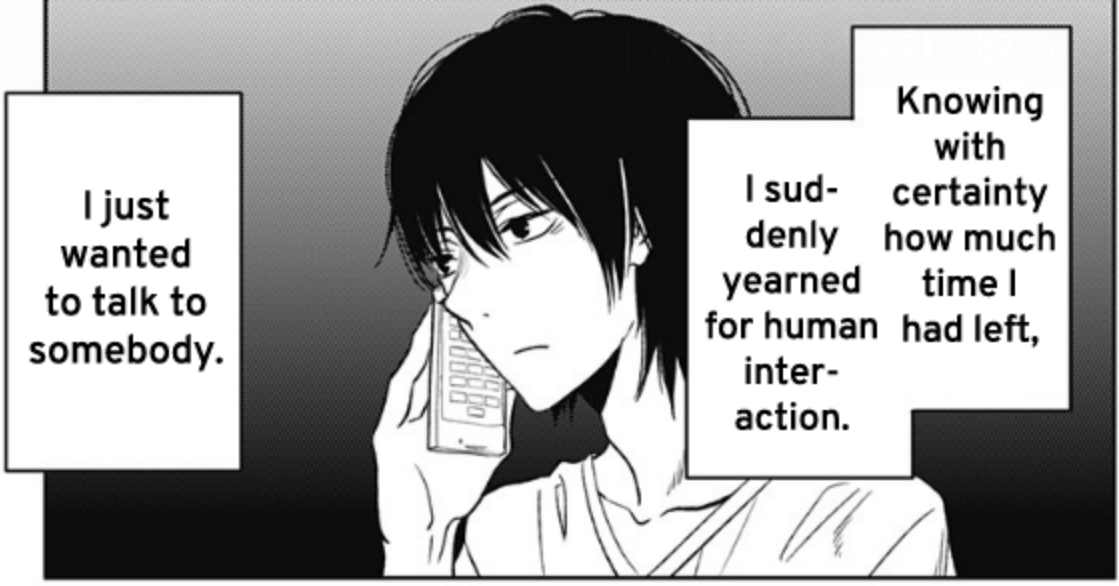
Here, my buffoonery really picked up the pace.
Just making a call.
I'll be right back.

But she still follows, of course...



...

Recipient
Wakana
080-XXXXXXXX
発信


I just wanted to talk to somebody.
I sud-denly yearned for human inter-action.
Knowing with certainty how much time I had left,

I met Wakana in April.
rrrrring...
rrrrring...
rrrrring...

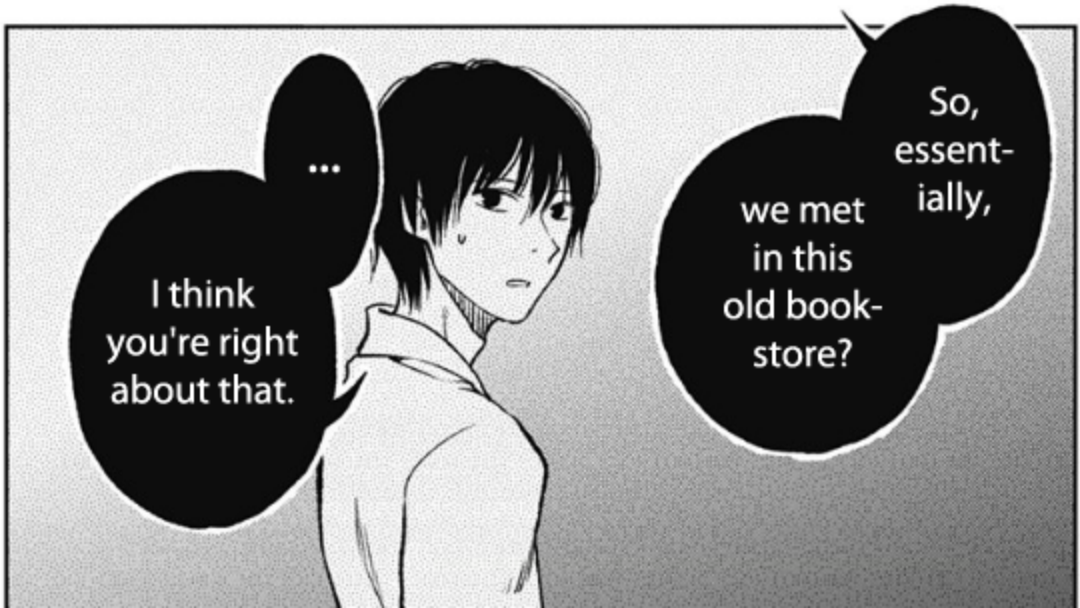
glance
Ugh.
Move it, lady.
I want to check that shelf...

...

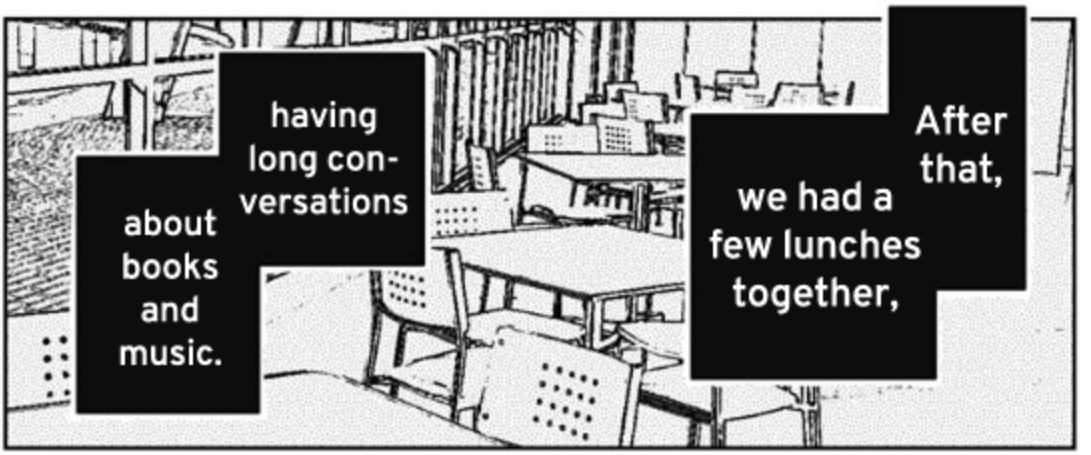
Um...
Ex-
cuse
me,
have
we met
before?

...

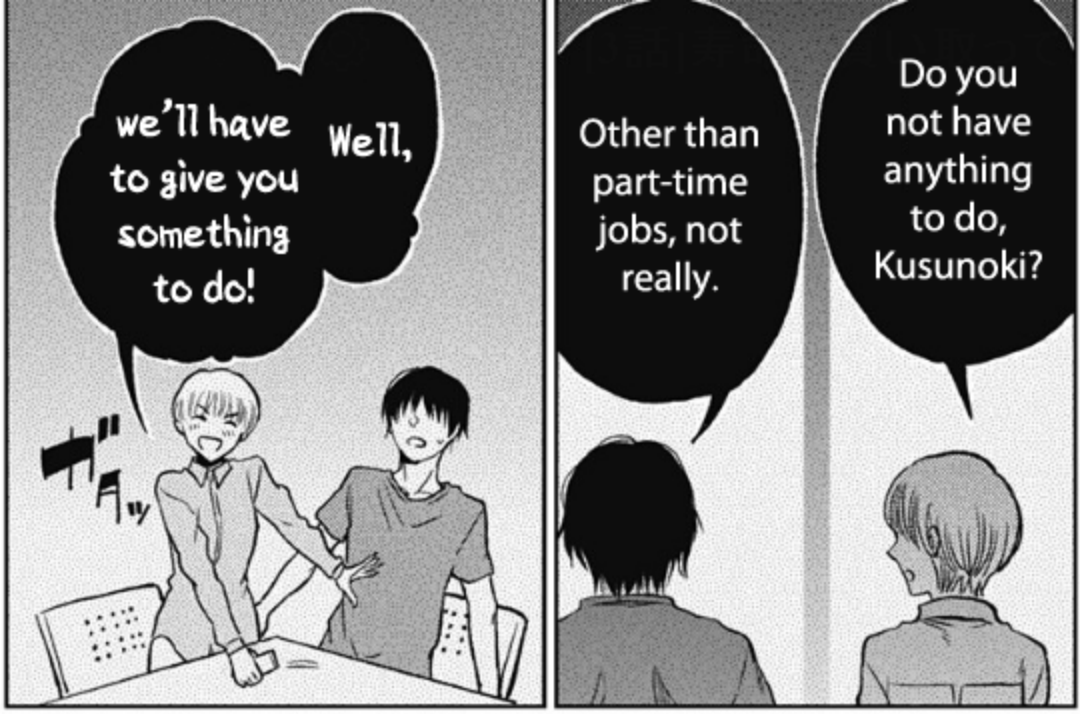
No.
Never
seen you
until now.
O-
Oh?
Sorry
to bo-
ther
you!
You
looked
like
some-
one...


So,
essent-
ially,
we met
in this
old book-
store?
...
I think
you're right
about that.

A few days later, we met again at college.
That's great!
I think I'm right about that, too.

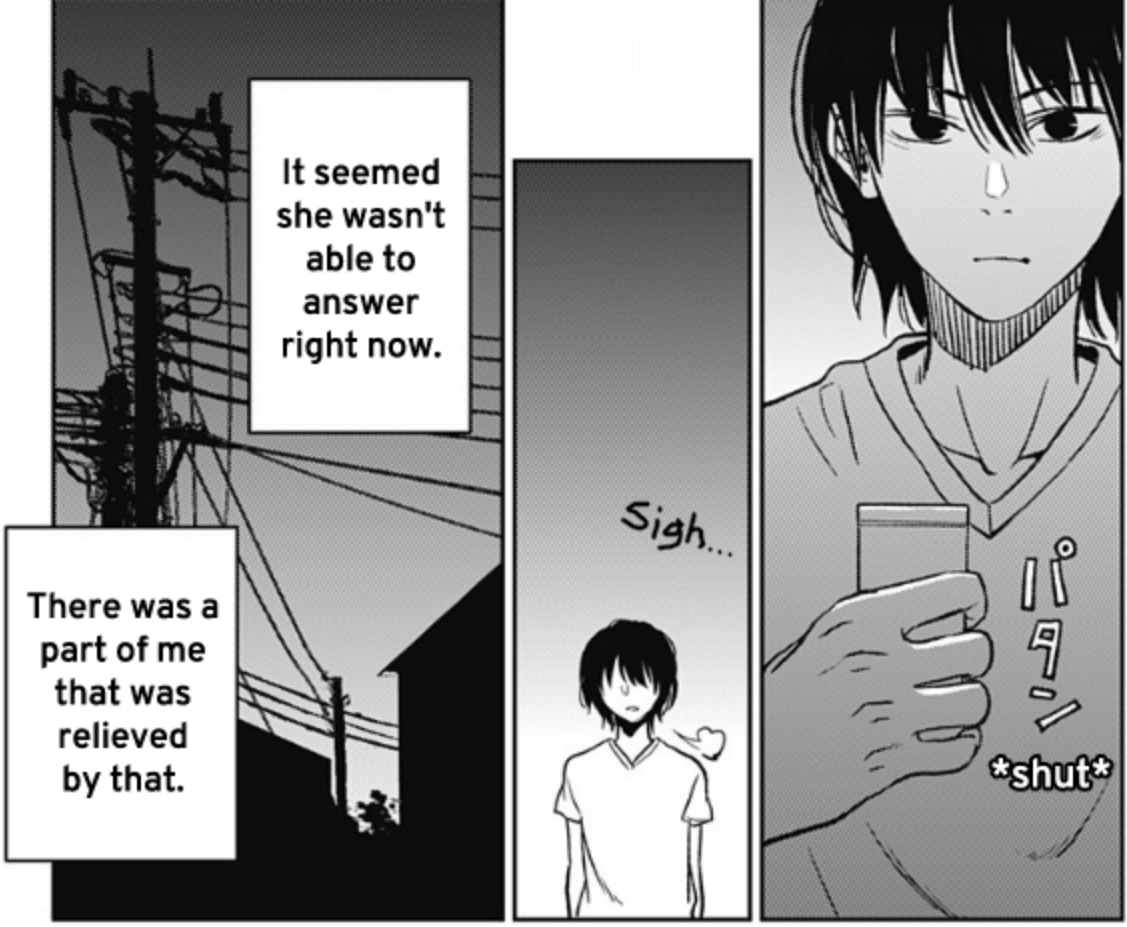

having long conversations about books and music.
After that, we had a few lunches together,

Reading is what people without anything else to do do.
I "read," sure, but that's where it ends.
Besides...
I've never met someone in my generation who's read more than me before!

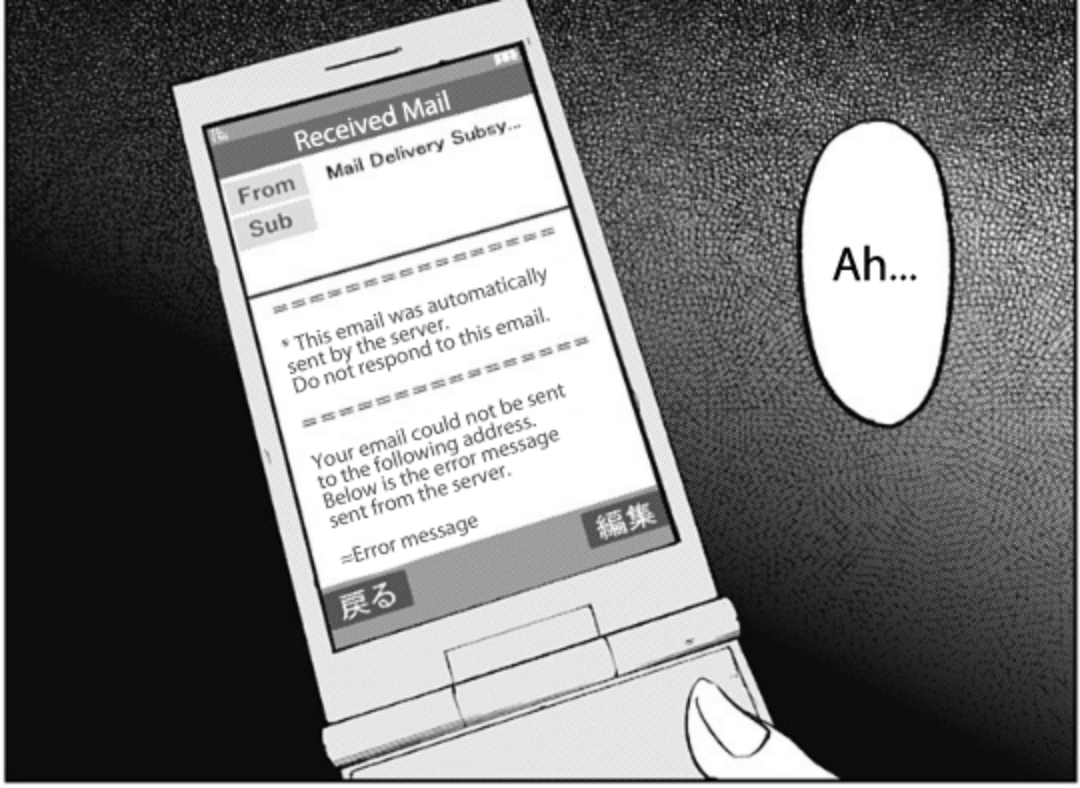

Do you not have anything to do, Kusunoki?
Other than part-time jobs, not really.
Well, we'll have to give you something to do!

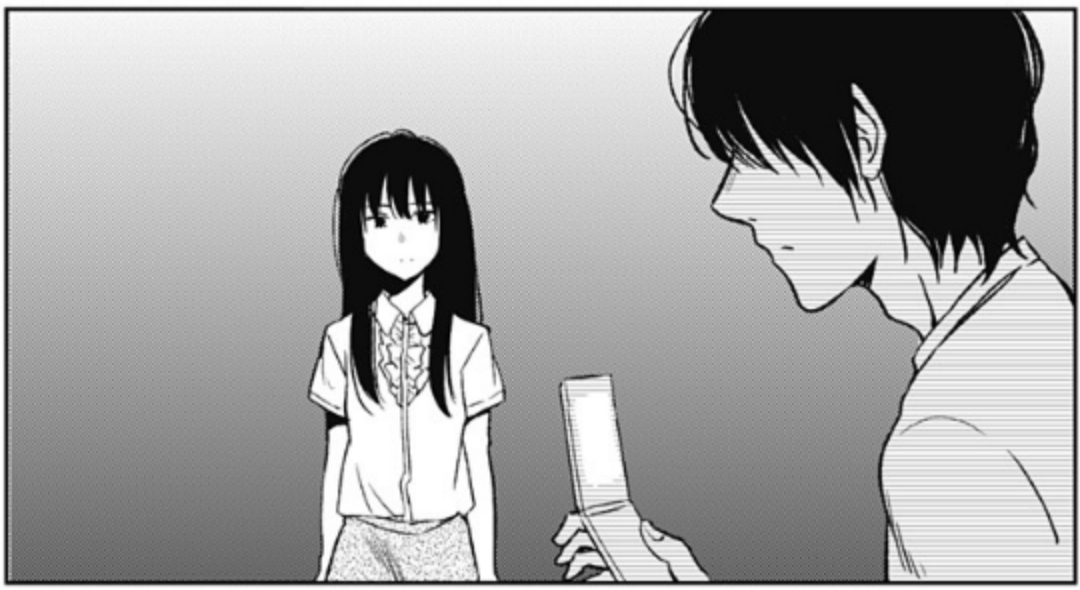
She was
the only girl in college to show any affection for me.
ポチ
ポチ

However,
I valued my promise with Himeno.
There!
So to keep Wakana from getting hopeful,
I treated her with a blunt attitude.


It seemed she wasn't able to answer right now.
There was a part of me that was relieved by that.
Sigh...
パターン
shut

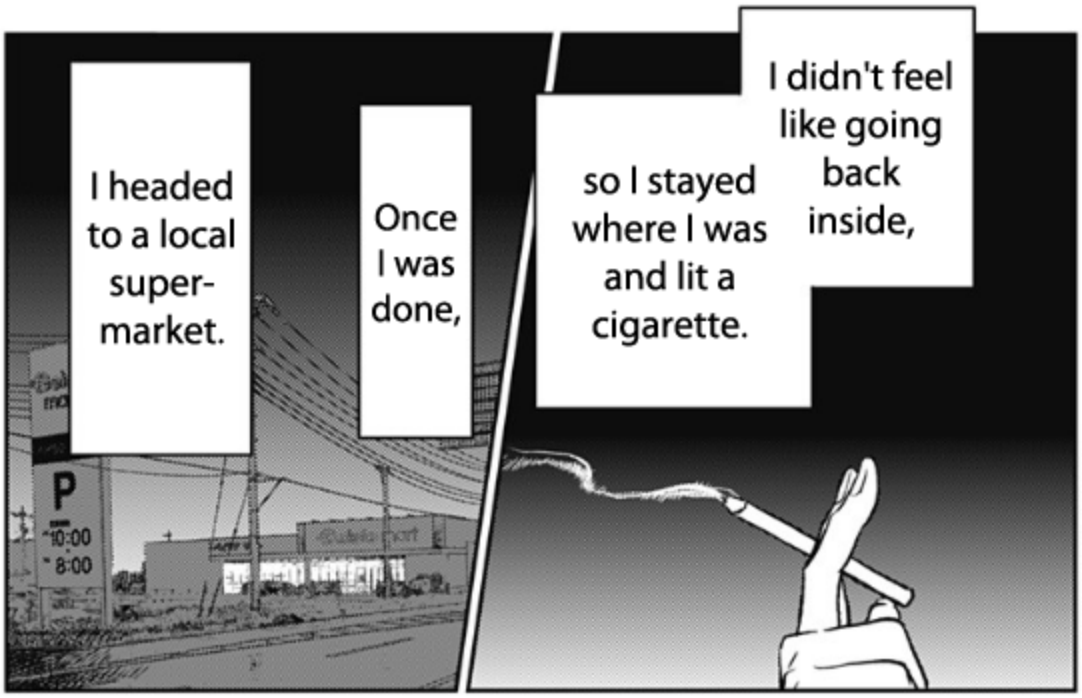
I chose my words carefully
and sent it.
New Mail
To
Wakana
Sub
Sorry this is so sudden, but do you want to go anywhere tomorrow?
編集
戻る
ブーン
bzzz

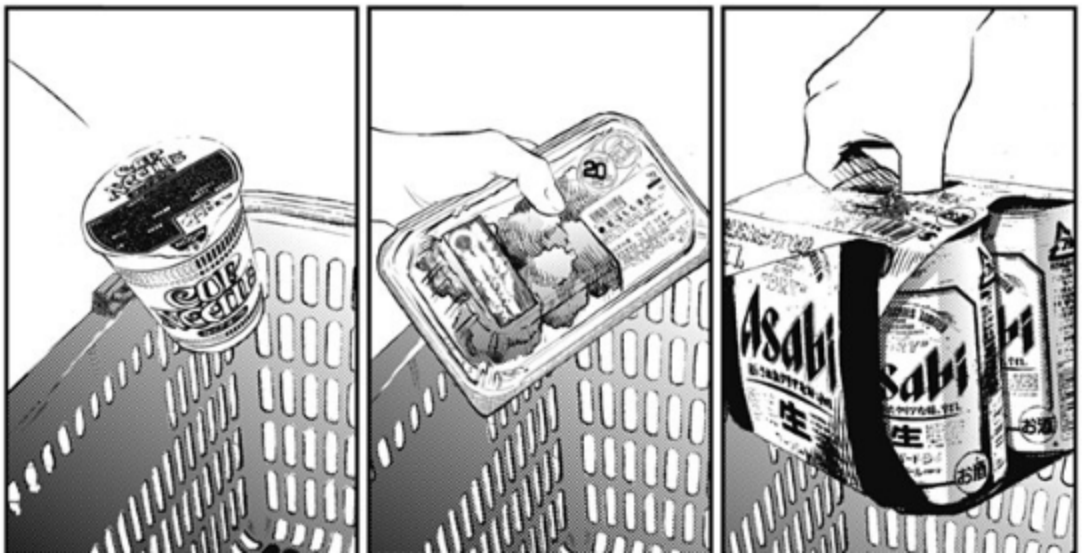

Received Mail
From
Mail Delivery Subsy...
Sub
* This email was automatically sent by the server.
Do not respond to this email.
Your email could not be sent to the following address.
Below is the error message sent from the server.
=Error message
編集
戻る
Ah...



...

Now then...
Let's compare answers.
The woman you just tried to call
was, in your eyes, your last ray of hope.
Ms. Waka-na
was the last person who you thought
may have loved you.


I headed to a local super-market.
Once I was done,
so I stayed where I was and lit a cigarette.
I didn't feel like going back inside,
P
10:00
8:00


Asahi
Asahi

547

Man...
I have 300k in yen,
but I dunno what's worth spending it on...

So, she eats.
BALANCED FOOD
CalorieMate
BLOCK

Still...

We must look like

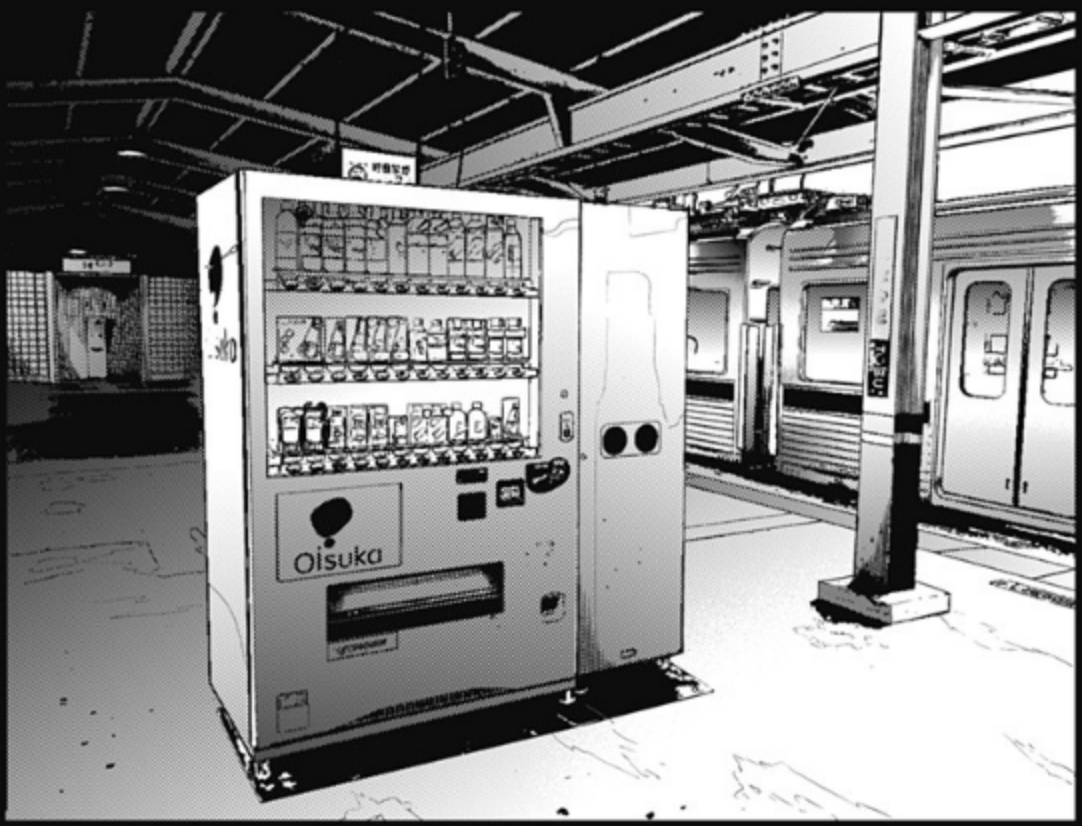
lovers who live together,
out on a shopping trip.
It was a truly ridic-ulous -
but happy - halluci-nation.

If I even have to say it...
The very existence of this Miyagi girl
was dis-agreeable to me.
But...
I enjoyed this late-night super-market shopping with a young girl.
Even if
her goal was to observe me...
For a long time,
living with a girl
and us going shopping for food and beer while still in our loungewear
had been a secret desire of mine.

むなしい幸せ
An empty happiness.
でも本当にそう感じるのだから仕方ない
But I couldn't help that I really felt that way.

寿命を買い取ってもらった。一年につき、一万円で。

I Sold Off My Lifespan, For 10,000 Yen A Year.



Chapter 4

Original: Sugaru Miaki **Manga:** Shoichi Taguchi
("Three Days of Happiness" from Media Works Bunko)
Character Design: E9L / Shoichi Taguchi

Kusunoki, with less than three months to live, and rejected by others...
これ
を切り
...
Hey.
Asahi

Wanna drink with me?
No thank you.
I'm on duty.

Y'know, I've been wonder-ing...
what're you writing there?
A record of actions.
Yours.

Not only that, but I'm really wanting to drink with you.
Yes, I know.
This I have heard.
Well, allow me to inform you that I'm drunk right now.
Yes, I can see that.
nod

glug
slam
Lemme tell you...
With these last three months,
with my 300,000 yen, I'm gonna change something.

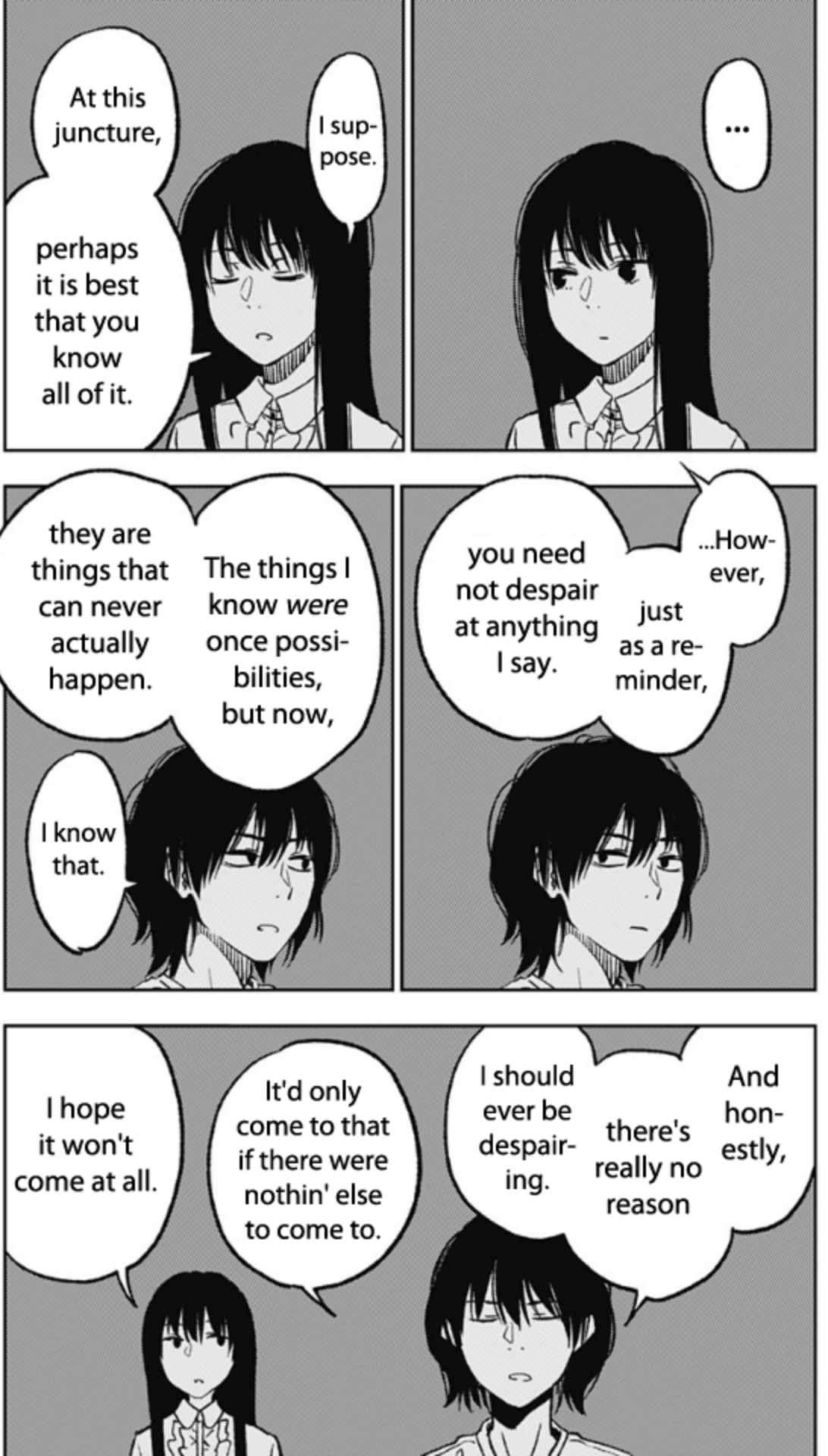
...
That is what everyone says.
I'm gonna get back at this world!
With my coming death driving me,
That is a critical mis-judgment.
you think you can do anything.
now that you've noticed your mis-takes,
Despite having been a rather hopeless person before,
御見積
クスノキ 様
御見積金額 300,000円
you accom-plished not one single thing.
was because in those 30 years,
The reason your lifespan sold for only 300,000 yen
think of it this way.
Mr. Kusu-noki,

'til we try.
... Won't know
change in a mere three months?
What can a man who would accomplish nothing in 30 years
...
That said, it's also too long to do nothing.
too short a time to change anything.
...Three months is simply
You lose because you consider only victory.
a number of small yet definite joys?
don't you agree it's more shrewd to accumulate
So then,

Alright, fine.
What you're saying is right.
I guess even now...
I still can't fully under-stand just how useless I really am.

So, hey. Could you tell me?
All the things that would've happened.

Just how did I spend those lost thirty years?
Maybe if I heard that, I could stop having any un-reasonable hopes.

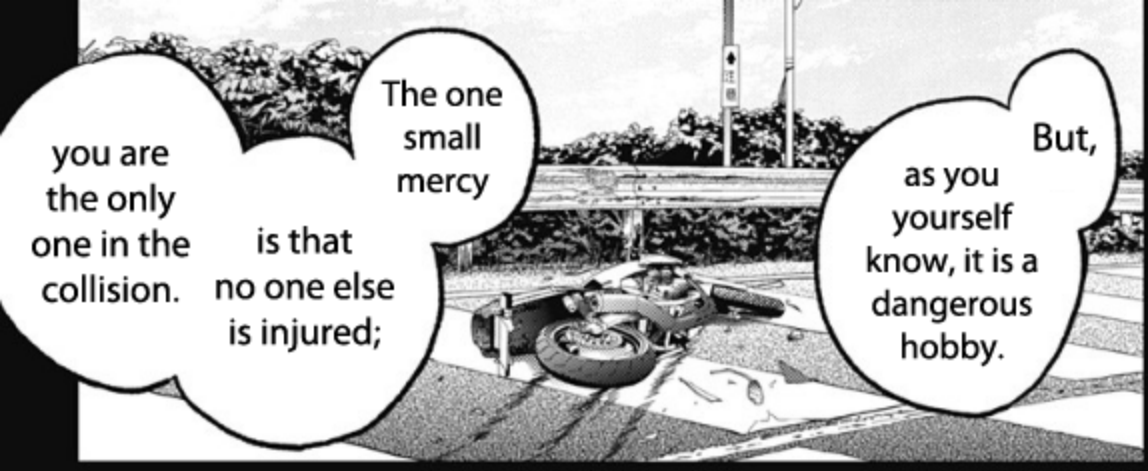

At this juncture,
I suppose.
perhaps it is best that you know all of it.
...
they are things that can never actually happen.
The things I know *were* once possibilities, but now,
I know that.
you need not despair at anything I say.
...However, just as a reminder,
I hope it won't come at all.
It'd only come to that if there were nothin' else to come to.
I should ever be despairing.
there's really no reason
And honestly,

First of all,
your time in college
passes in the blink of an eye.
You merely pay bills,
read books,
listen to music,
and sleep.

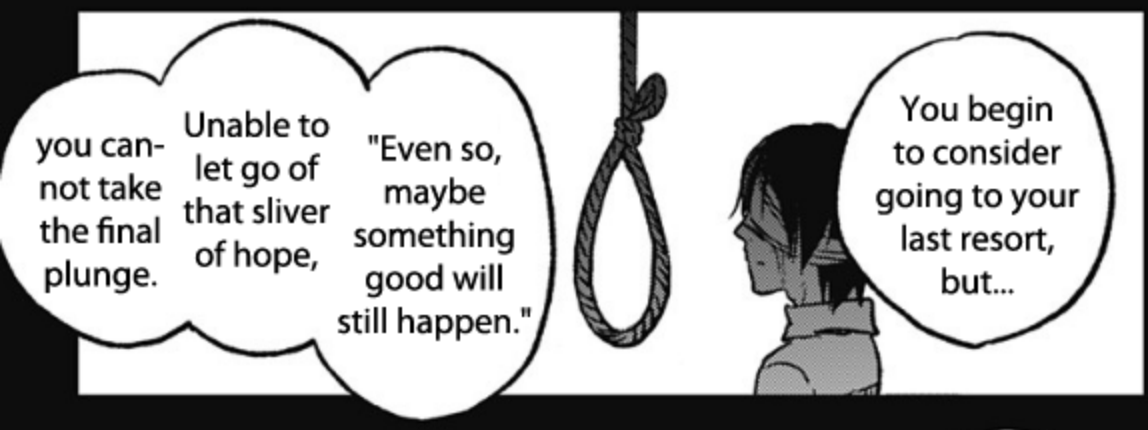
You graduate having learned nothing in particular,
and iron-ically,
you end up in the line of work you scorned most.

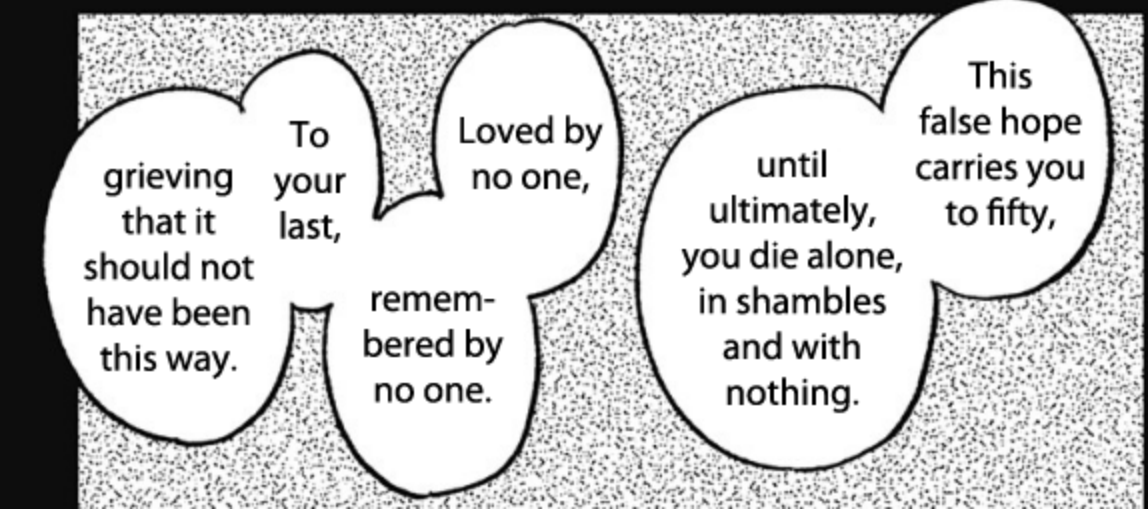
You travel between home and work, eyes ever-vacant,
work-ing your body into dust,
and drink comes to be the only thing you look forward to.

Before you know it, you're approaching your late thirties.
In lone-someness, your only hobby
is to ride a motorcycle around aimlessly.


But, as you yourself know, it is a dangerous hobby.
The one small mercy is that no one else is injured;
you are the only one in the collision.

In that accident, you lose half your face,
the ability to walk, and the majority of your fingers.


You begin to consider going to your last resort, but...
"Even so, maybe something good will still happen."
Unable to let go of that sliver of hope,
you cannot take the final plunge.

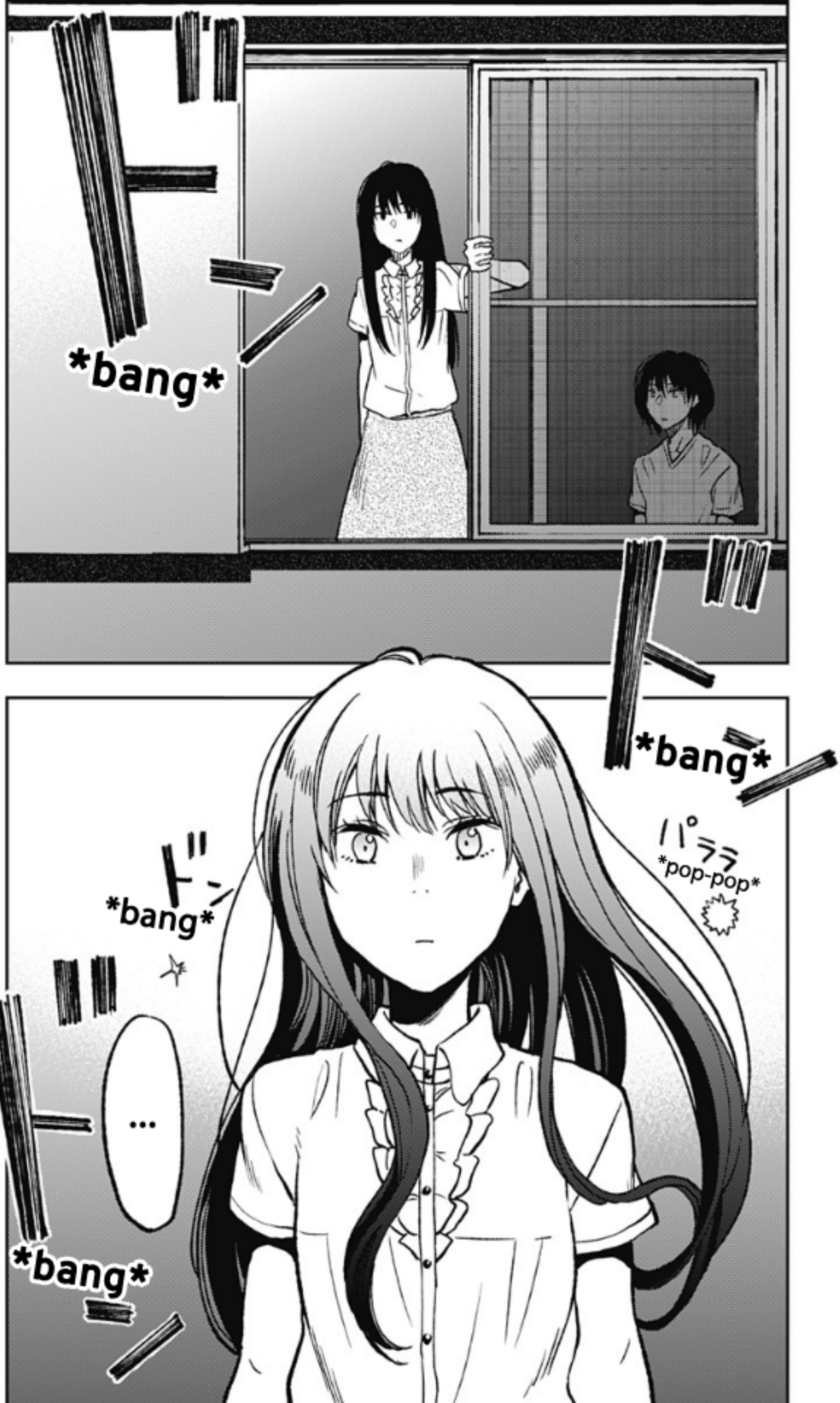

This false hope carries you to fifty,
until ultimately, you die alone, in shambles and with nothing.
Loved by no one, remembered by no one.
To your last, grieving that it should not have been this way.

...
So, your thou-ghts?
Right, well.
First of all...

I'd say I'm really glad
I sold off all thirty years.

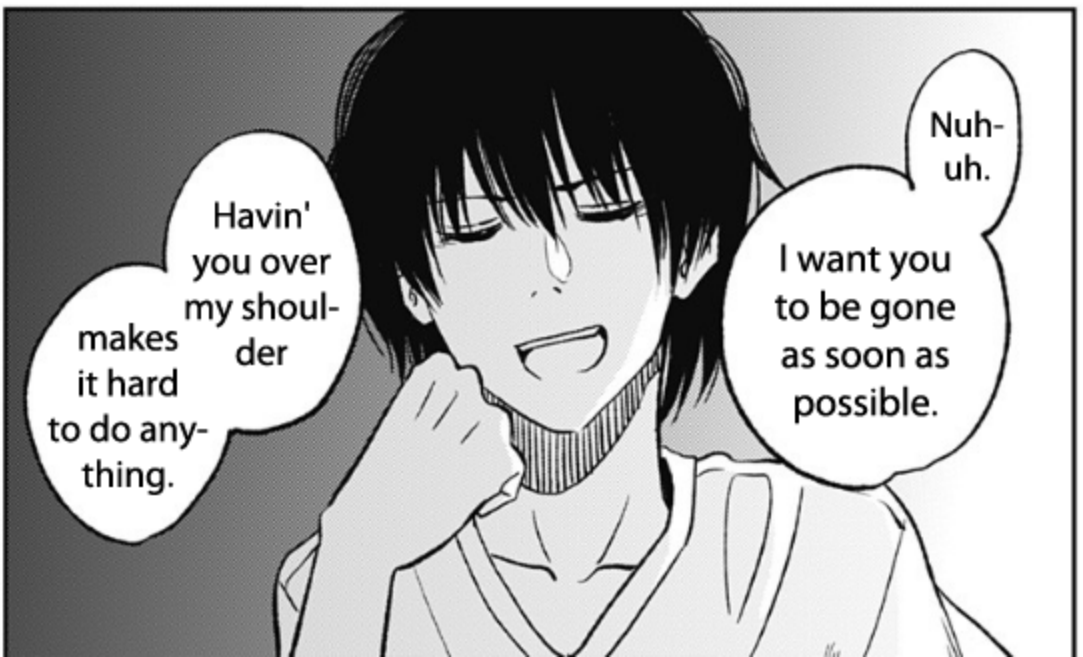
BANG

ドーン
bang
!
Fire-works ...
スッ
whoo sh
ドン
ba-bang

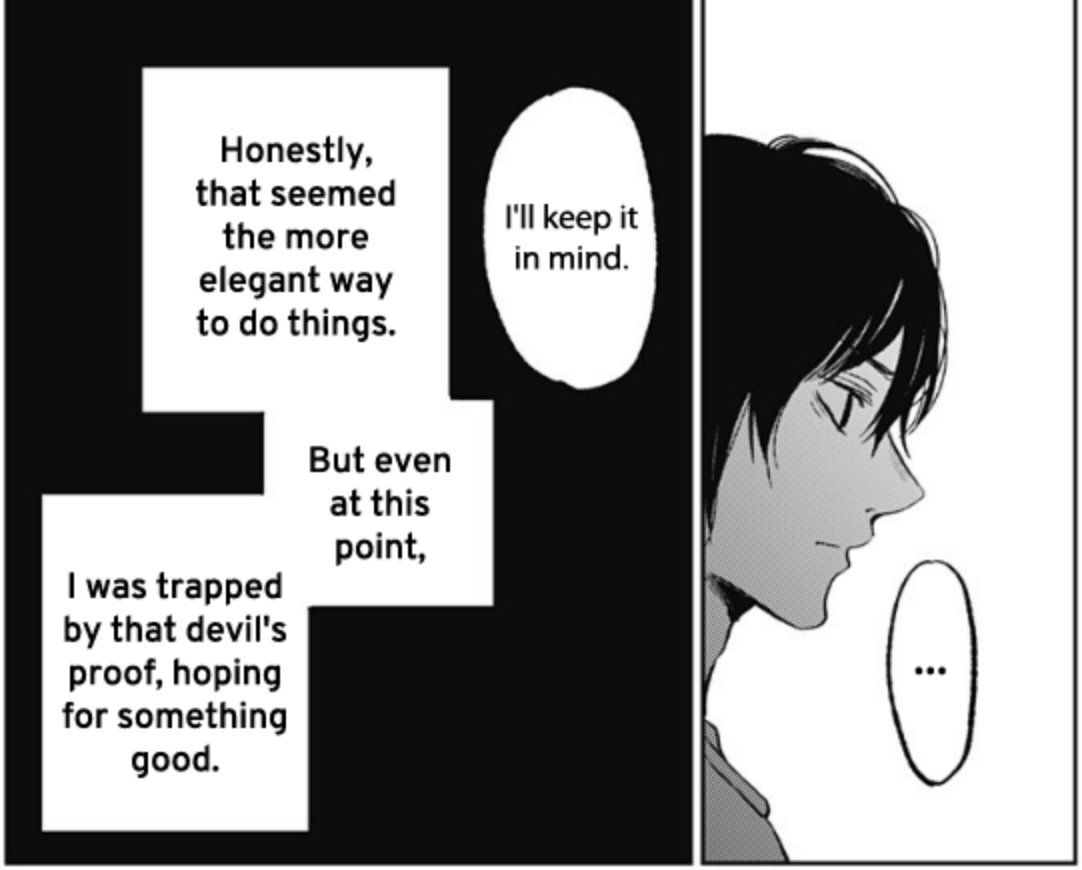

bang
bang
パララ
pop-pop
ドン
bang
…
bang

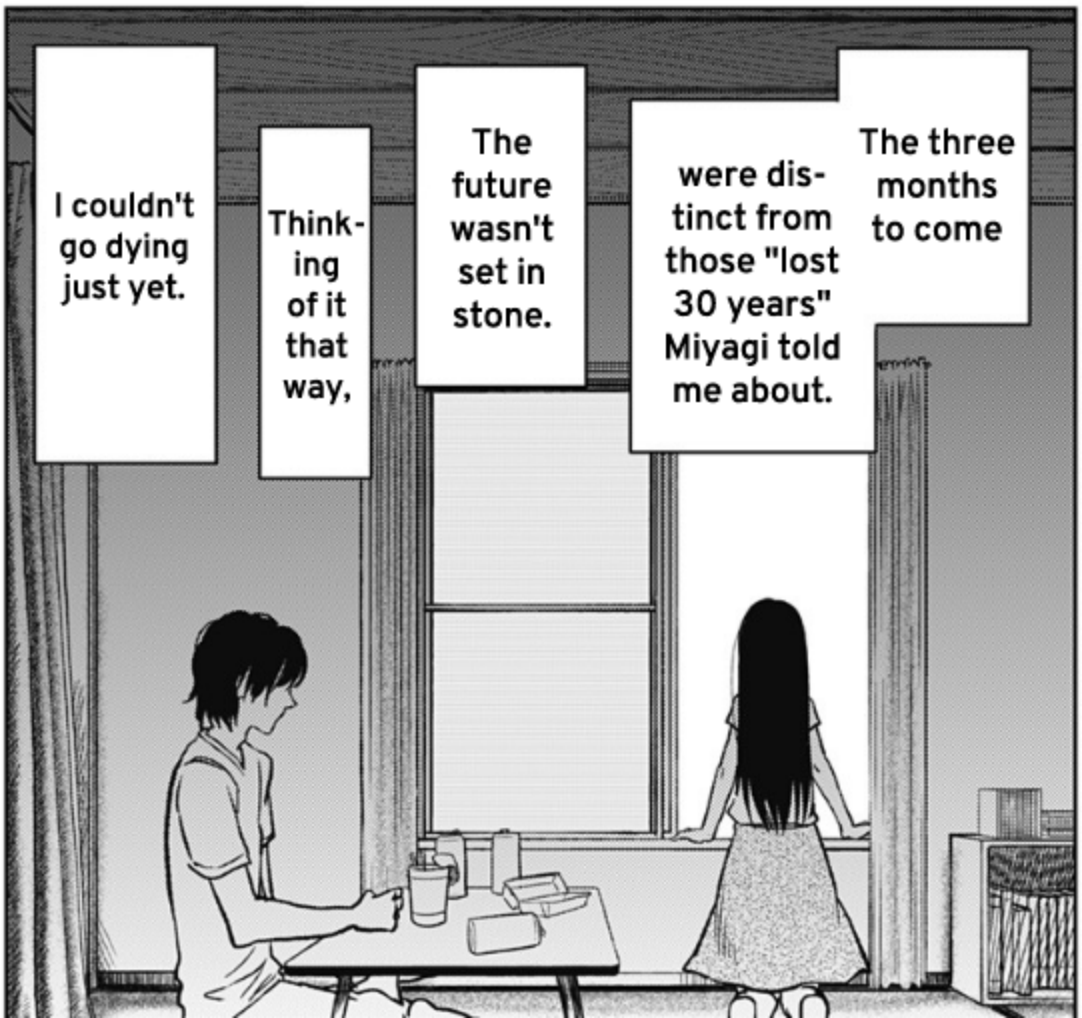
Hey now, should you just be staring out there,
miss observer?
Seems that's piquing her interest a little...
bang

Do you *want* me to watch you?
What then?
What if I were to suddenly take off?


Havin' you over my shoulder makes it hard to do anything.
Nuh-uh.
I want you to be gone as soon as possible.

Heck, I think it might've been better
if I'd sold off all but three days instead.
Well, there is still time for that.
You are allowed two more lifespan transactions.
If you truly can't stomach my presence,
then that is certainly an option.


Honestly, that seemed the more elegant way to do things.
I'll keep it in mind.
But even at this point,
I was trapped by that devil's proof, hoping for something good.
...

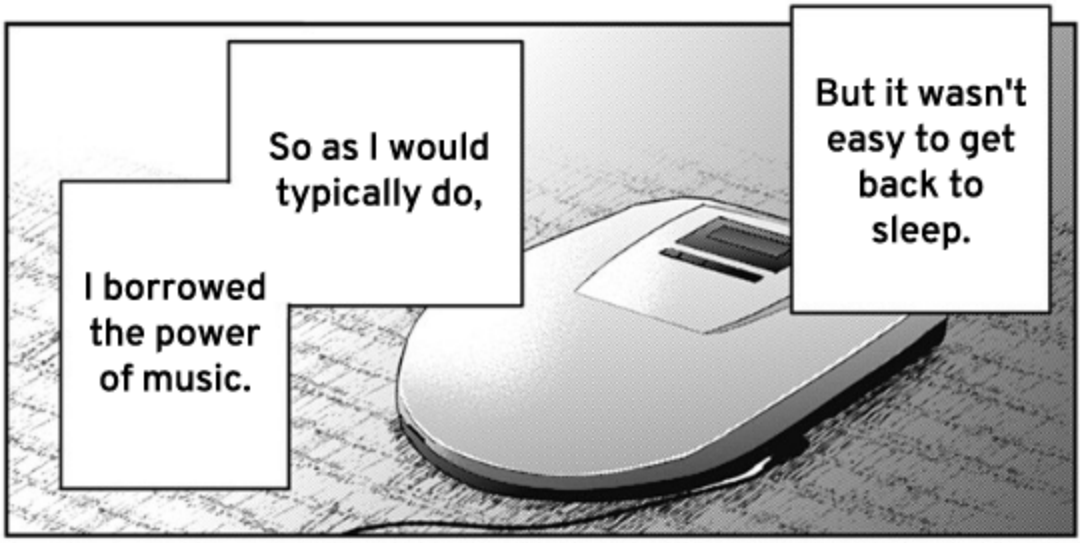

I couldn't go dying just yet.
Think-ing of it that way,
The future wasn't set in stone.
were dis-tinct from those "lost 30 years" Miyagi told me about.
The three months to come

ザァァァァァ
!
3:00
Smells sweet...
これは…
Is this...
……

The smell of women's shampoo...

Miyagi used the shower.
Which means that while I was asleep,

I need to sleep for tomorrow...
Ah, who cares.

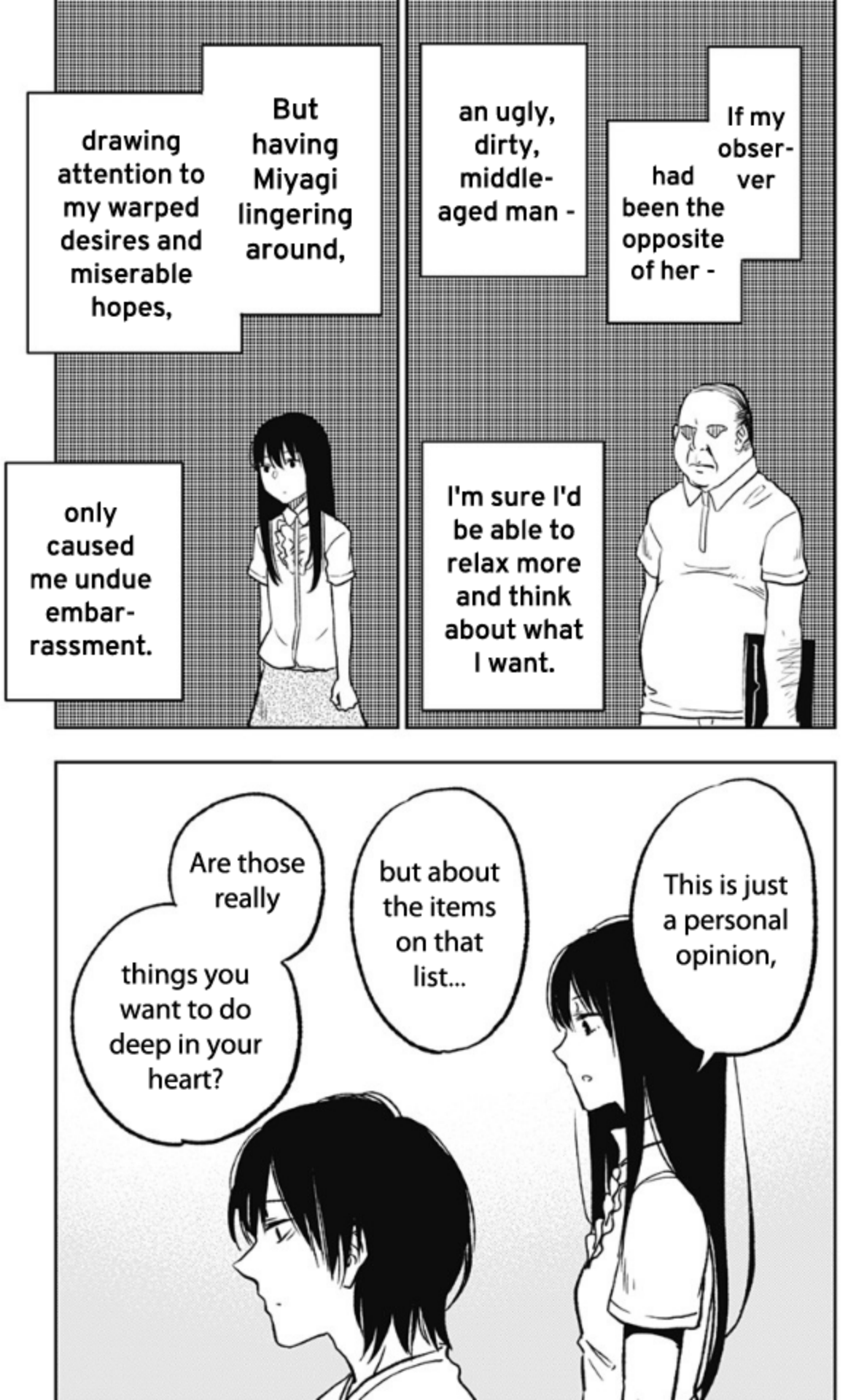

But it wasn't easy to get back to sleep.
So as I would typically do,
I borrowed the power of music.

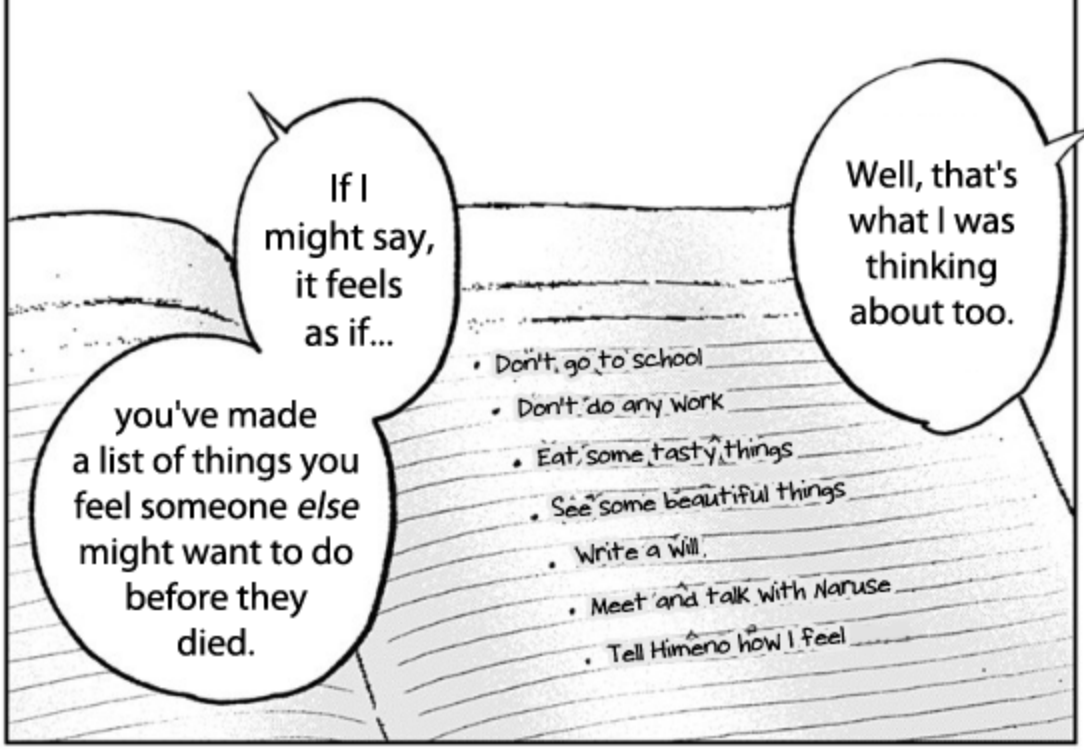
I put on one of my unsold CDs,
"Please Mr. Lostman."
This is just what I think,
but a person who listens to this on sleepless nights
will never live a decent life.

Using music like this,
I, unfit for the world,
excused myself from trying to get used to it.
Maybe I was still
paying the price for that now.
...
Things to Do Before I Die
• Don't go to school
• Don't do any work
• Eat some tasty things
• See some beautiful things
• Write a will
• Meet and talk with Naruse
• Tell Himeno how I feel

How do you plan to spend today?
...

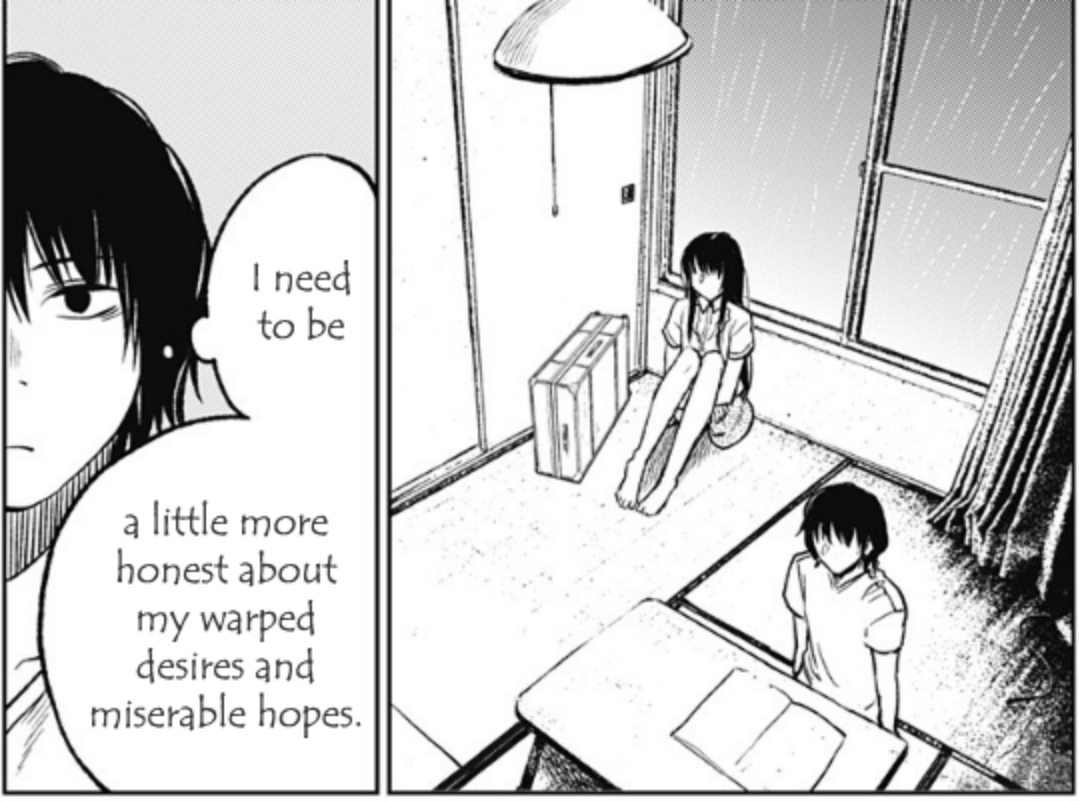
I'd thought this since I first met her,
?
but Miyagi didn't look half-bad.
Well, let me come out and say it.
Strictly in terms of appearance, she was *exactly* my type.

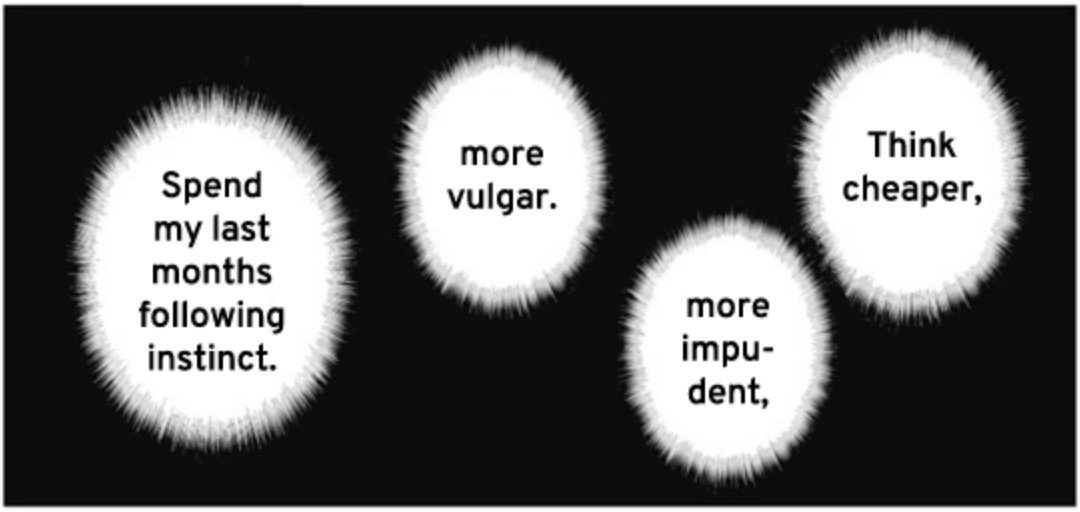

But having Miyagi lingering around,
drawing attention to my warped desires and miserable hopes,
only caused me undue embar-rassment.
If my obser-ver had been the opposite of her -
an ugly, dirty, middle-aged man -
I'm sure I'd be able to relax more and think about what I want.
This is just a personal opinion,
but about the items on that list...
Are those really things you want to do deep in your heart?


If I might say, it feels as if...
you've made a list of things you feel someone *else* might want to do before they died.
Well, that's what I was thinking about too.
• Don't go to school
• Don't do any work
• Eat some tasty things
• See some beautiful things
• Write a will
• Meet and talk with Naruse
• Tell Himeno how I feel

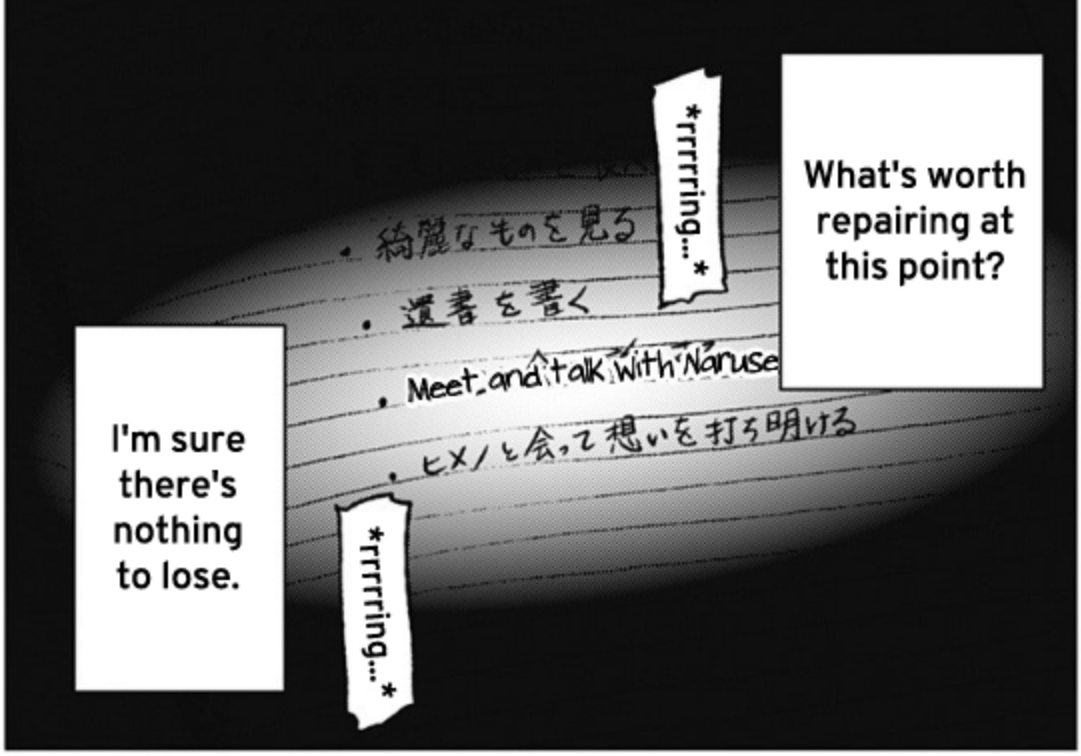
... Maybe.
The truth might be that there really isn't a single thing I want to do before I die.

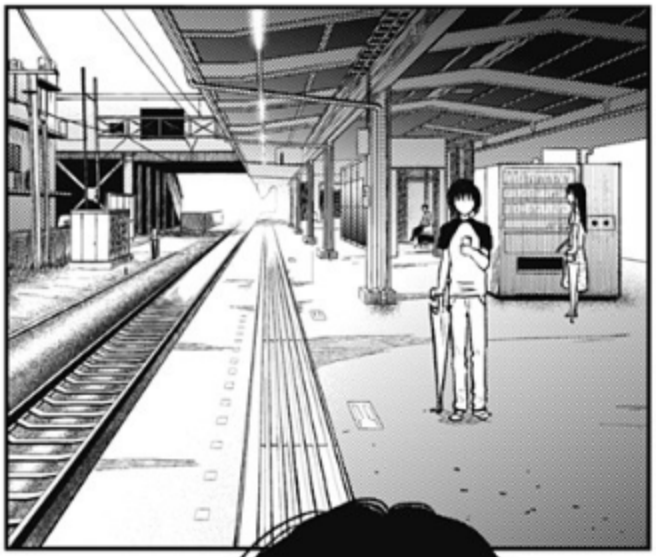
Even still, I feel that there must be a method more suited to you.

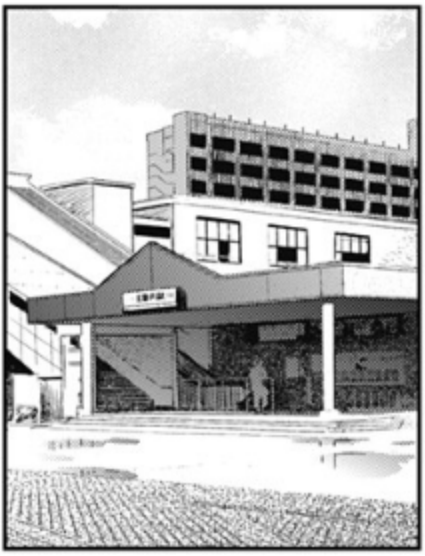

I need to be
a little more honest about my warped desires and miserable hopes.


Spend my last months following instinct.
more vulgar.
Think cheaper,
more impu-dent,

Recipient
Naruse
080-XXXXXXXX
メニュー
発信


What's worth repairing at this point?
rrrrring...
• 綺麗なものを見る
• 遺書を書く
• Meet and talk with Naruse
• ヒメノと会って想いを打ち明ける
I'm sure there's nothing to lose.
rrrrring...





!

How many books read?
How many more cigarettes would I smoke?

Between now and when I died,
how many more CDs would I listen to?

Anything might be for the last time.

IN

Wel-
come!

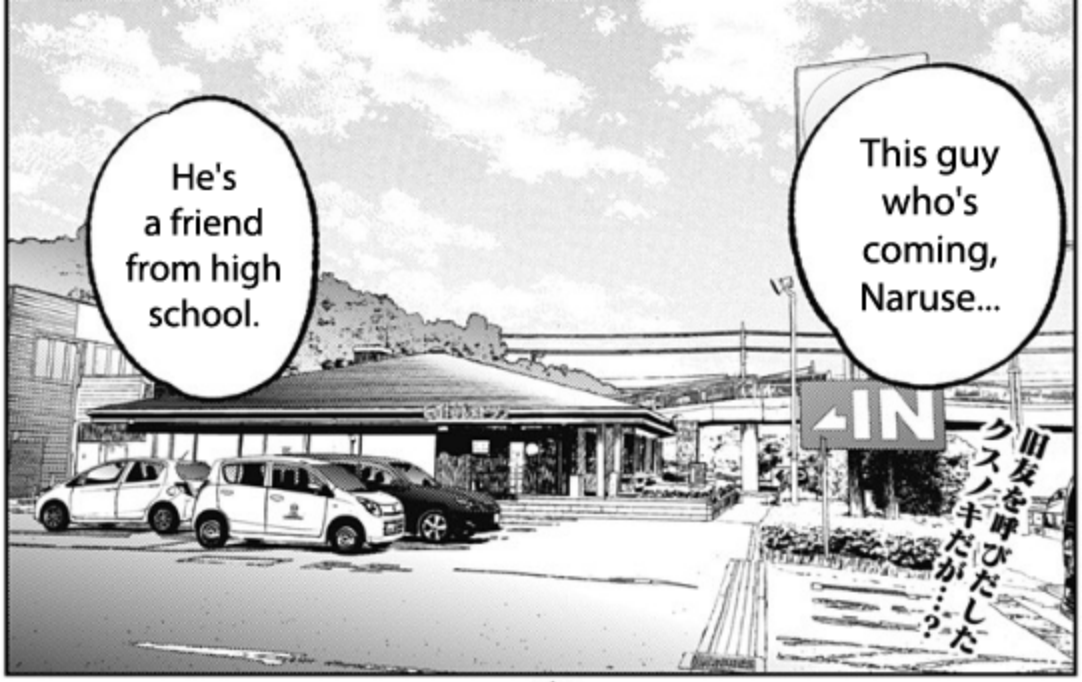
You been doing good?
Long time no see.
Yeah.
Pretty good.

寿命を買い取ってもらった。一年につき、一万円で。

I Sold Off My Lifespan, For 10,000 Yen A Year.

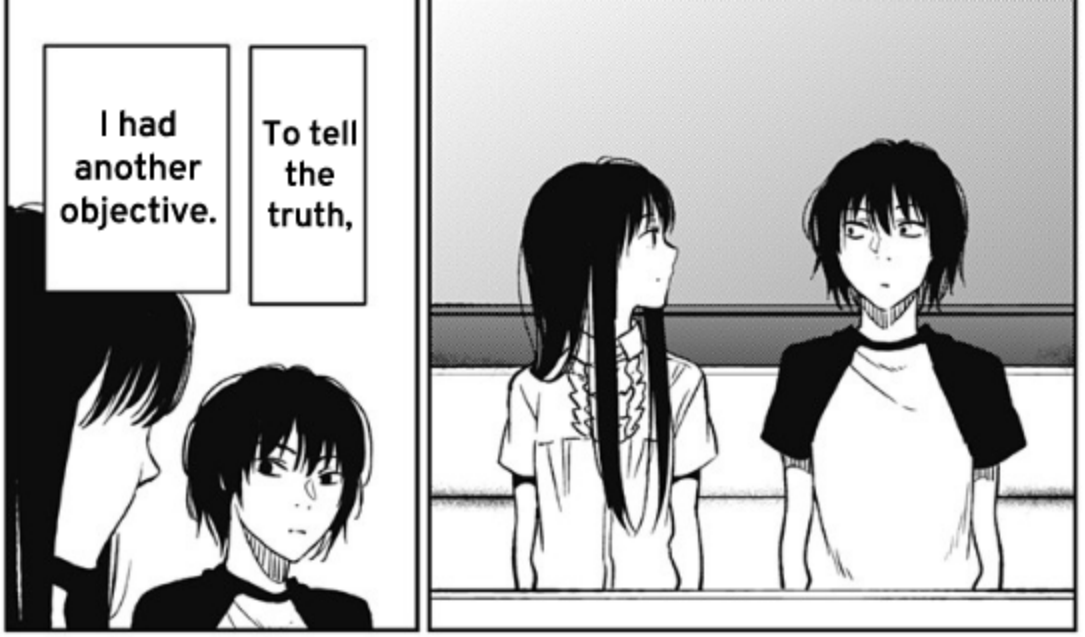
Chapter 5

Original: Sugaru Miaki **Manga:** Shoichi Taguchi
("Three Days of Happiness" from Media Works Bunko)
Character Design: E9L / Shoichi Taguchi


This guy who's coming, Naruse...
He's a friend from high school.
IN
旧友を呼びだしたクスノキだが…？

He was popular,
I was an outcast.
Totally opposite stand-ings,
but we were similar in an odd way.

When we were together,
weirdly,
we could laugh off any and all bad things.
So I was thinking
I'd like to have a carefree chat with him again.
... I see.


I had another objective.
To tell the truth,

would be misinter-preted by Naruse.
her watching me with an observing eye,
I hoped that the relationship between me and Miyagi,

Hey, miss obser-ver.
I've got a request...
It was a pathetic hope.
But just once before I died,
I wanted to taste the feeling of being a pretty girl's boyfriend.

Sure.
Coffee for me.
I'll get right on it.
Ex-cuse me.
Are you ready to order?
You okay not ordering anything?
... Um.
You should refrain from talking to me when in public.
What, is that a problem?

...I believe
I did explain this to you at the start, but...
Well, you see,
the pre-sence of us observers
cannot be sensed by anyone except for those we observe.

Any sensation I give to a person
is treated as if it didn't happen.

Like so.
tug

The point being, Mr. Kusu-noki,
that you currently appear
as if you are talking to air.

So, your request was?
...For-get it.
ひっ
eee.
はっ
Ah...

Maybe I won't meet with Naruse after all...

Wel-come!

Hey!
Kusu-noki!
Long time no see.
You been doing good?
Yeah.
Pretty good.

Oh, hot coffee for me!
C'mon, man!
We should keep in touch more!

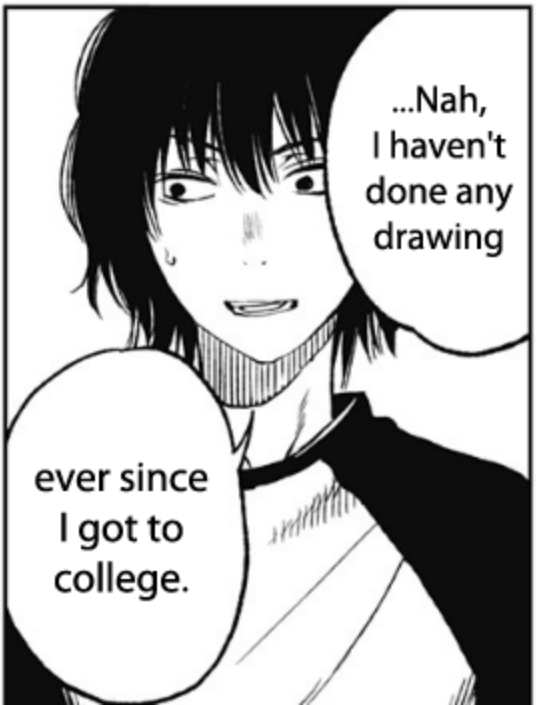
By the time we'd told each other how things were going,
we started speaking candidly with one another,
as if back in high school.

As we laughed about pointless stuff,
I was able to forget about my encroaching death.

By the way, Kusunoki.
I'd say I was having fun.
Until *that* came out of his mouth,

U- Uh...
Do you still draw at all?

Thought so.


...Nah, I haven't done any drawing ever since I got to college.

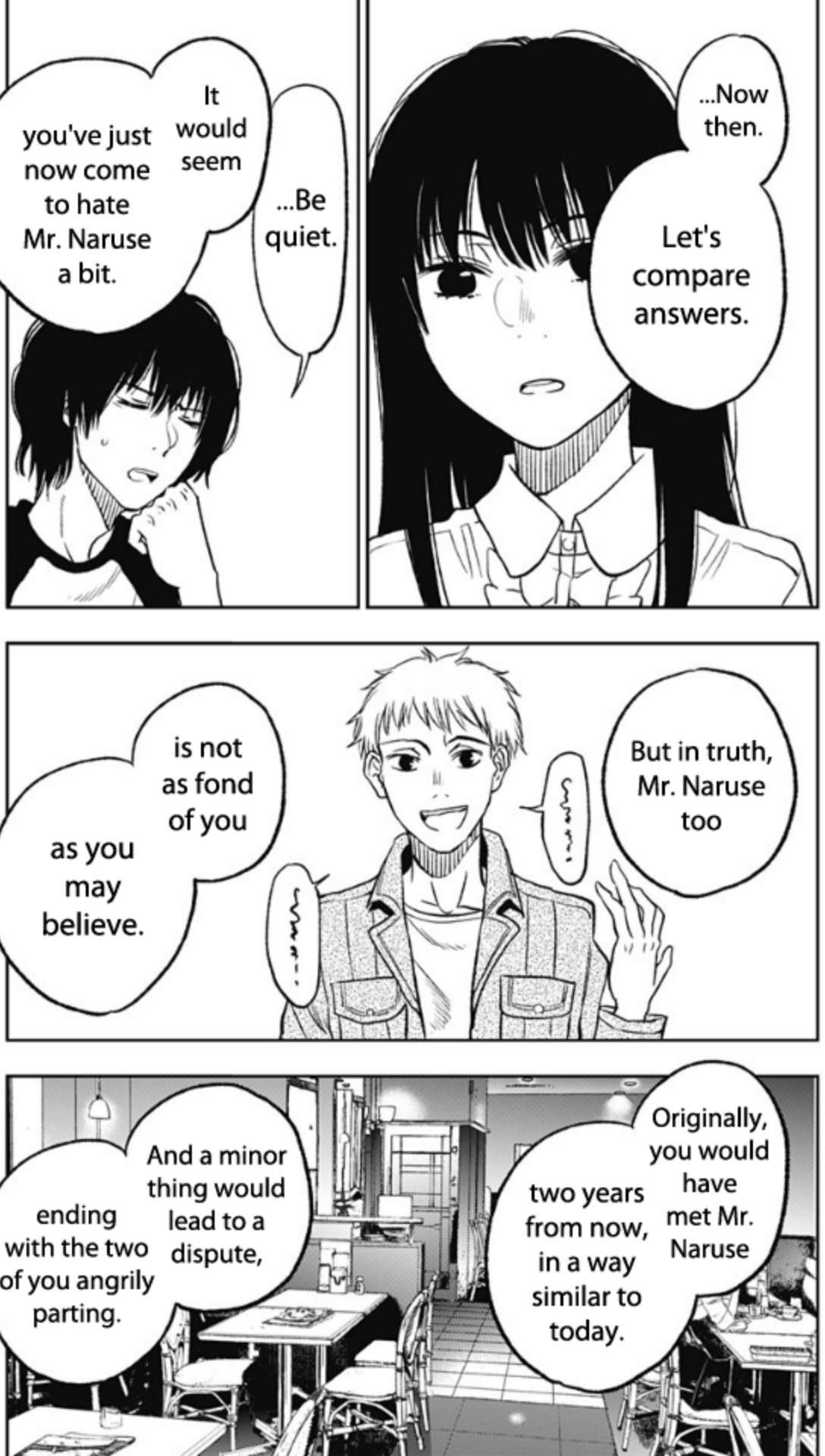
If you were still draw-ing,
I dunno what I would've done.

That
put an end to it.

Hey.
Naru-
se.
That's
the one
thing
you can't
laugh at.

True,
I gave
up on it.
But
even
so,
that
abso-
lutely
doesn't
mean
it's
something
that's okay
to laugh at.

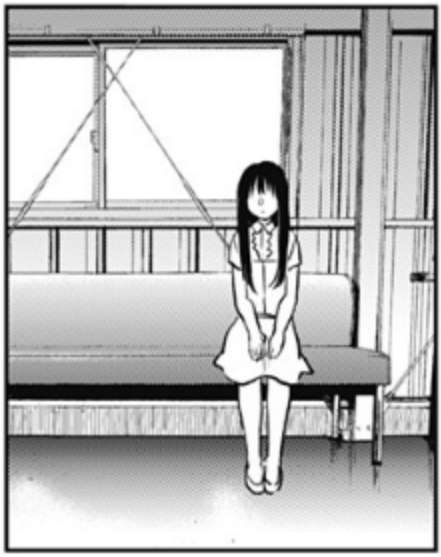
And I
thou-
ght
you, at least,
would have
understood
that.

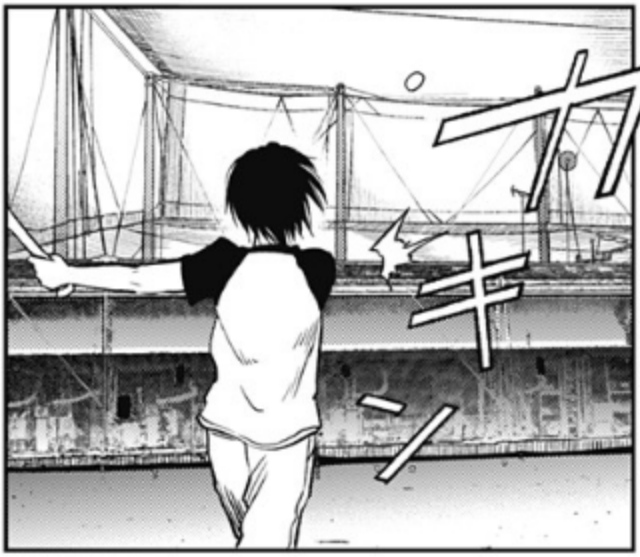

...Now then.
Let's compare answers.
...Be quiet.
It would seem you've just now come to hate Mr. Naruse a bit.
But in truth, Mr. Naruse too
is not as fond of you as you may believe.
Originally, you would have met Mr. Naruse two years from now, in a way similar to today.
And a minor thing would lead to a dispute, ending with the two of you angrily parting.

...You should cut it off soon before it reaches that point.
Shut up...
Nothing good will come of placing your hopes in this man.
You... all of you...
Shut UP!

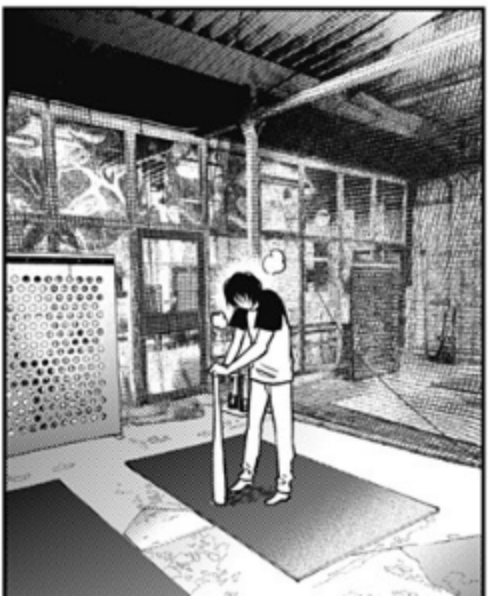
*SHAT-
TER*

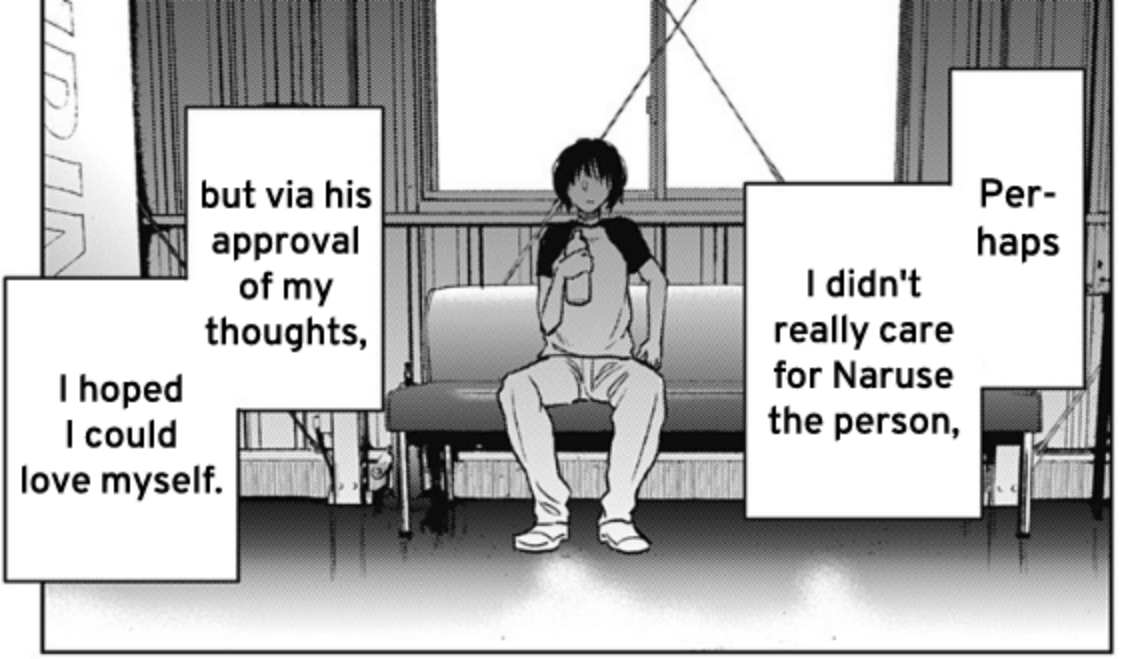
S-
Sir?!




カキーン

I didn't feel any regret
for leaving Naruse like that.




Per-
haps
I didn't
really care
for Naruse
the person,
but via his
approval
of my
thoughts,
I hoped
I could
love myself.

And while
Naruse
had
changed,
I never
did.
Maybe
it was
Naruse
who was
in the
right.

Hey.
Miss
obser-
ver.
I'm
sorry
about
what
I did back
there.
You're
not
hurt?

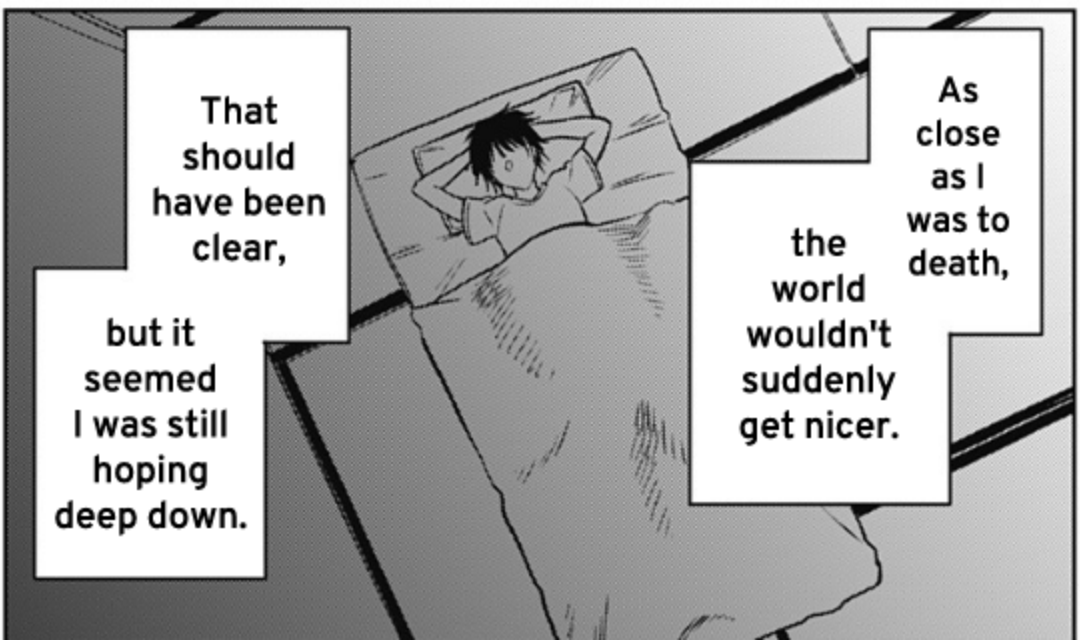
When you're done with that observation log or whatever, you wanna drink?
Hey, I really am sorry.
Unfortunately. I am not.
It's fine. Because it didn't hit.

you want to drink with me?
Are you saying that ...

You should've just said that first then.
Well, apologies, but I can't. I'm on the job.
I see.
Well, yeah. I'm lonely.

...I see.
...I get lonely sometimes, like anybody else.
I was unsure why you would say something like that,
I mean.
Sorry.
I just found it a bit odd.

Looks like I need to revise my view of things.


That should have been clear,
but it seemed I was still hoping deep down.
As close as I was to death,
the world wouldn't suddenly get nicer.

I decided to write a will.

...

cicadas...

What did I want to impart, and to who?

When I closed my eyes to think about it,

I immediately thought of my childhood friend, Himeno.

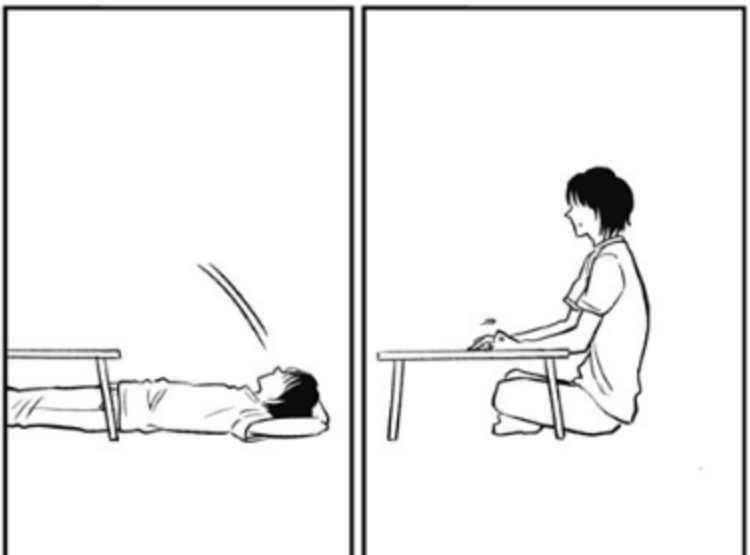
So I tried taking about an hour

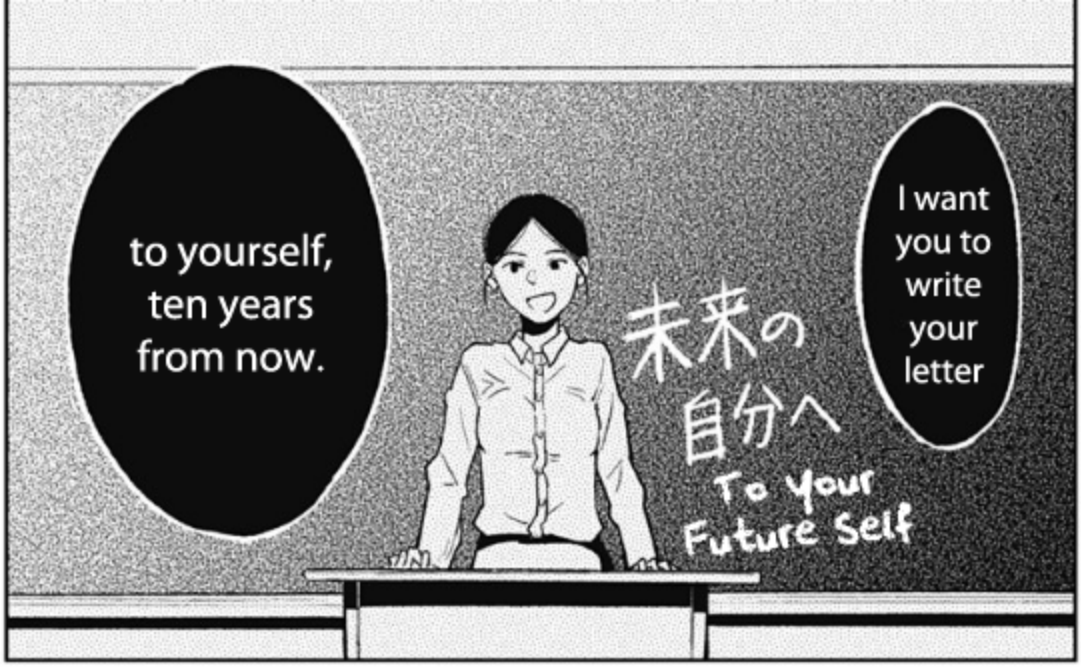
to write a letter to Himeno.

I don't know what you think of me by now, but I've kept loving you since that day ten years ago.
I survived until twenty because of my memories from when I was with you, and I won't survive beyond twenty because I can't stand a world without you.
Now that I'm about to die, I've finally realized that. In a way, I've already been dead for a long time. Ever since the day we went our separate ways.
Goodbye. I'm praying ten-year-old me survives inside you for a little longer.

To summarize what I ended up with:

When was the last time I wrote a letter?




I want you to write your letter
未来の自分へ
To your Future Self
to yourself, ten years from now.

"Did your dream come true?",
or
"Are you happy?",
or
"Please don't forget about this"
might be good things to write.

Also,
at the end of the letter,
please write
the name of the person who's your best friend now.

How do you plan to spend today?

Time capsule raiding.

Sure-ly

you won't just sneak into a school

and dig holes in the middle of the day?

Na-tural-ly,

I'll wait for night.

Ex-cept...

This was spur of the moment,

and I'm not sure how to pass the time.

Perhaps you might tour some places from your past?

With the exception of Ms. Himeno, I assume?
I don't have much of a good past in this town.
Places from my past, huh...

Is that so. I'll be more cautious henceforth.
I especially don't want to hear it out of your mouth.
Don't bring up her name so lightly.

Gonna be another scorcher...

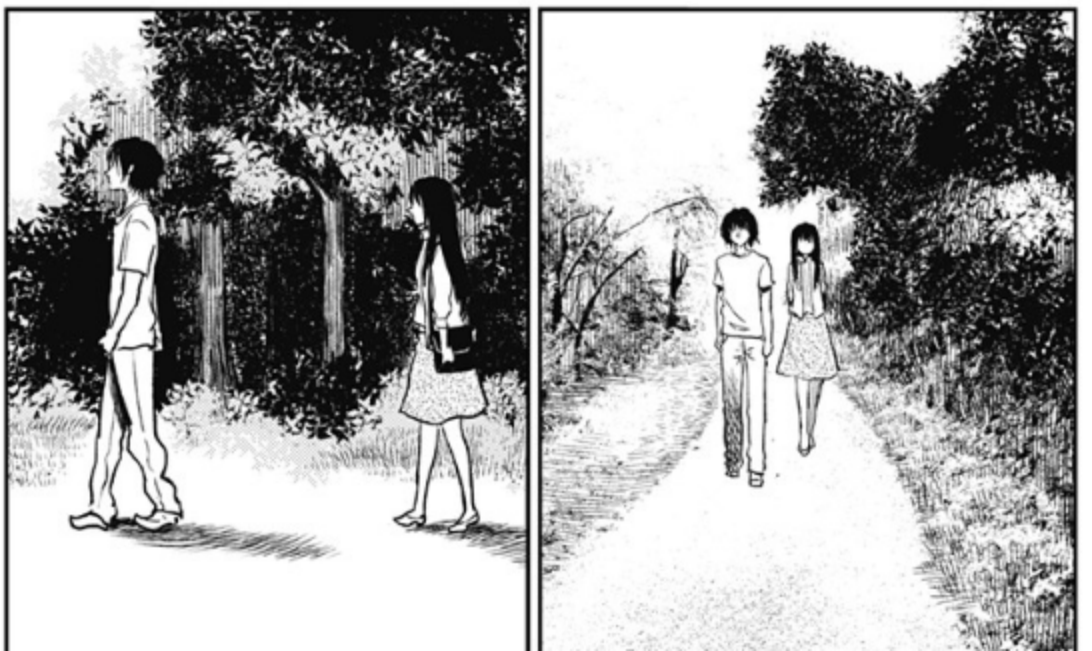
Aren't you
invisible to everyone but me?
UV

Yes.
I'm only seen by those I observe.
Although there are exceptions...
Essentially, yes.
Always?

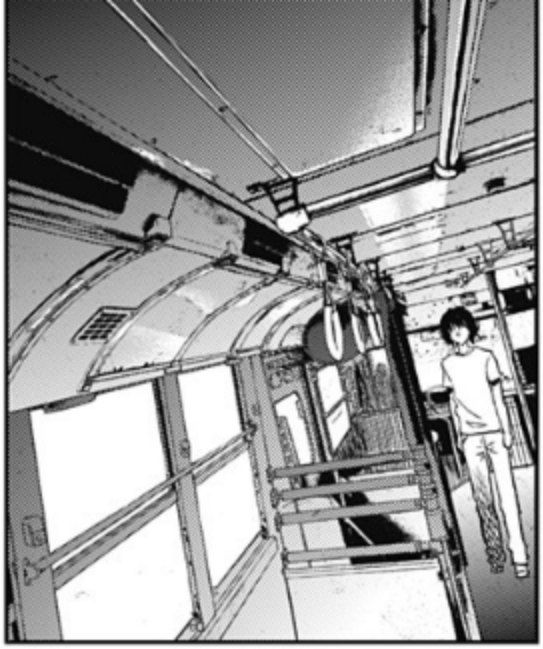
Is something the matter?
Nope, nothing.
It's just,
if nobody can see you,
I wondered why you'd fuss over your appearance.

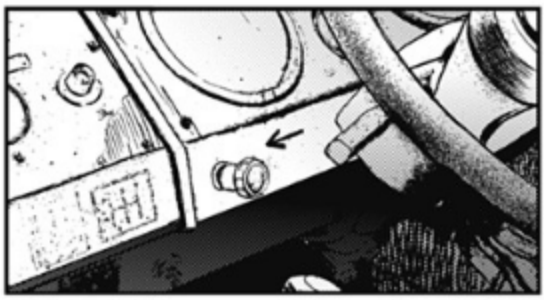
Even if you had no plans to meet anyone, you would still shower, wouldn't you?
...
I do it for myself.

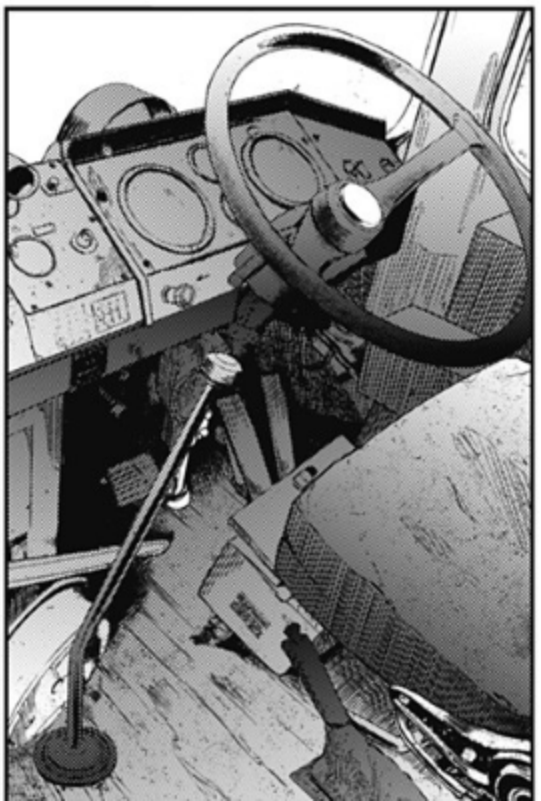
I was glad I could get back at her.
But since it was Miyagi,
If it were any other girl, I'd have rushed to apologize.
It seemed Miyagi really took offense at that remark.

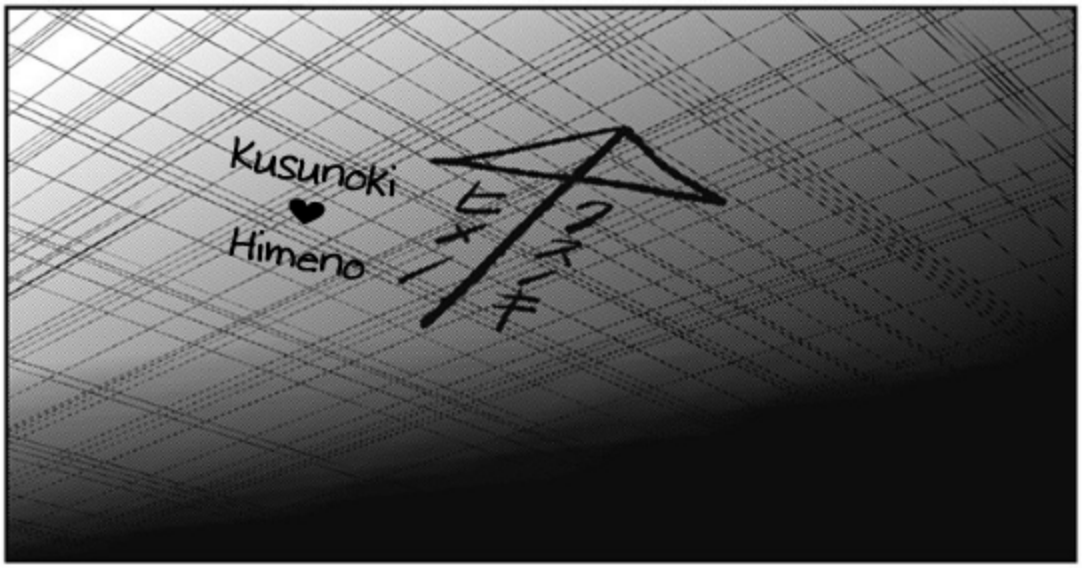


A so-called "secret base."
What is this ...?





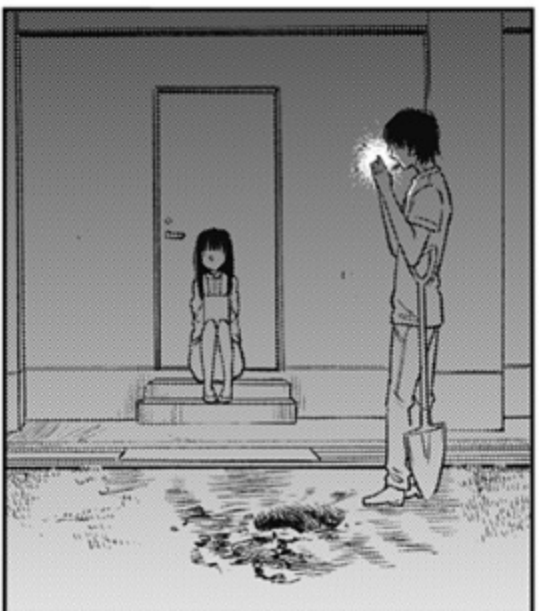



Kusunoki
♥
Himeno
クスノキ
ヒメノ

...It's not here?
Maybe it was dug up already...

カッ

!



カッ
カッ
カッ
カッ

clank
カン

...
There we go.
!

It was
the time capsule buried ten years ago.

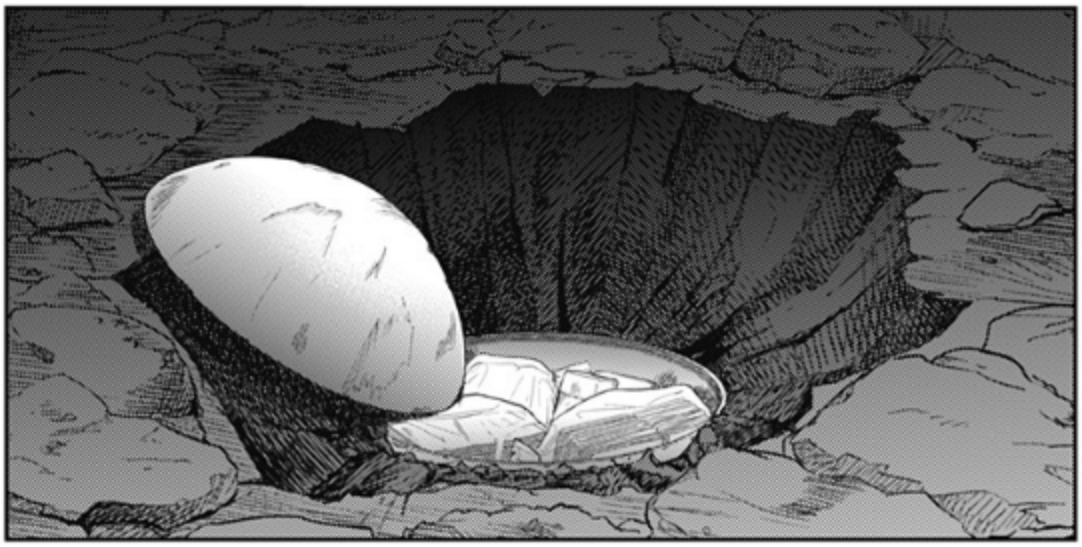
寿命を買い取ってもらった。一年につき、一万円で。

I Sold Off My Lifespan, For 10,000 Yen A Year.

Chapter 6

Original: Sugaru Miaki **Manga:** Shoichi Taguchi
("Three Days of Happiness" from Media Works Bunko)
Character Design: E9L / Shoichi Taguchi

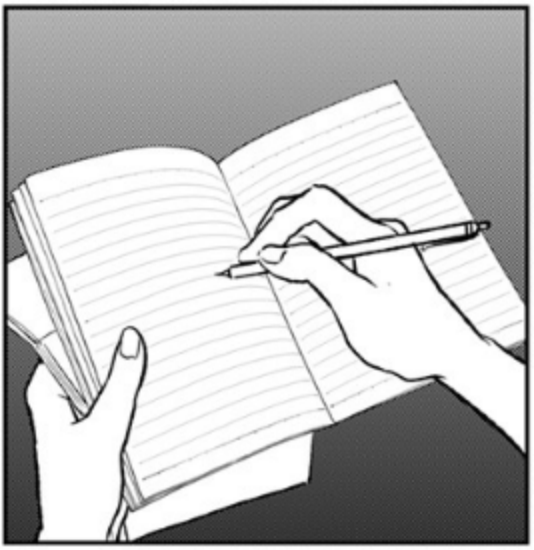
カタッ
clatter



My Best Friend
Hasegawa

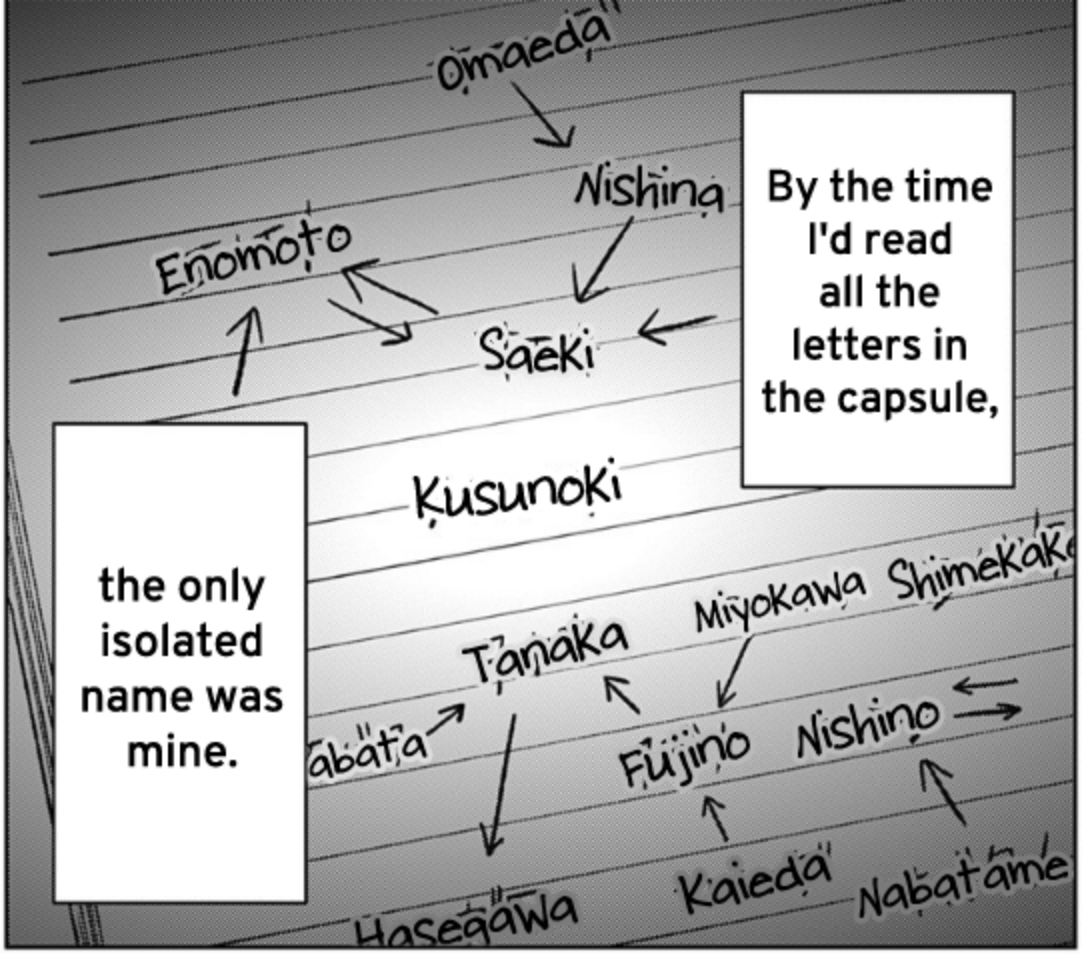
I'm gonna die in a few months.
I should be allowed that much.
Are you sure you should be reading other people's letters?

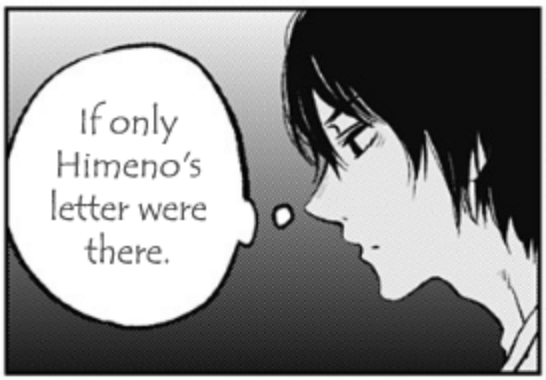
Tanaka
Hasegawa



While I'd expected as much...

Omaeda
Nishina
Enomoto
Saeki
Tanaka
Miyakawa
Fujino
Hasegawa
Kaieda

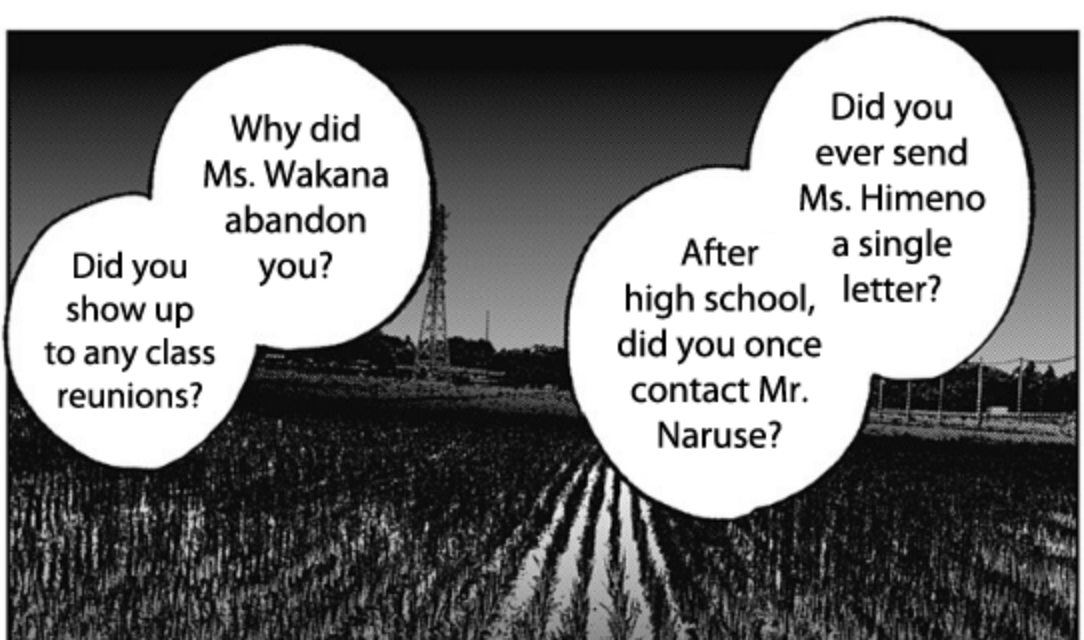

Omaeda
Nishina
Enomoto
Saeki
Kusunoki
Tanaka
Miyokawa
Fujino
Nishino
Kaieda
Nabatame
Hasegawa
By the time I'd read all the letters in the capsule,
the only isolated name was mine.


If only Himeno's letter were there.

If hers were there,
surely she'd have written my name.

...
...And Ms. Himeno's letter is nowhere to be found.

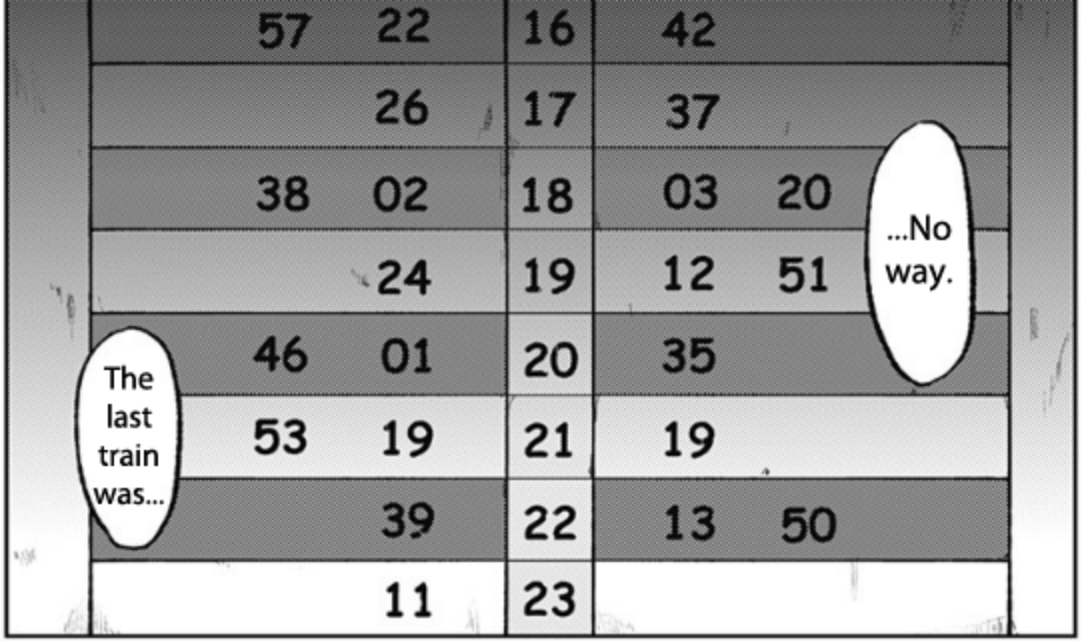
As you have just neglected all of them.
your past relation-ships.
You ought not cling onto
I should hope you understand now?


Why did Ms. Wakana abandon you?
Did you show up to any class reunions?
Did you ever send Ms. Himeno a single letter?
After high school, did you once contact Mr. Naruse?

...Pardon the remark, but,
don't you feel that clinging to the past now is asking for too much?

Well, then...
What do I even cling to?

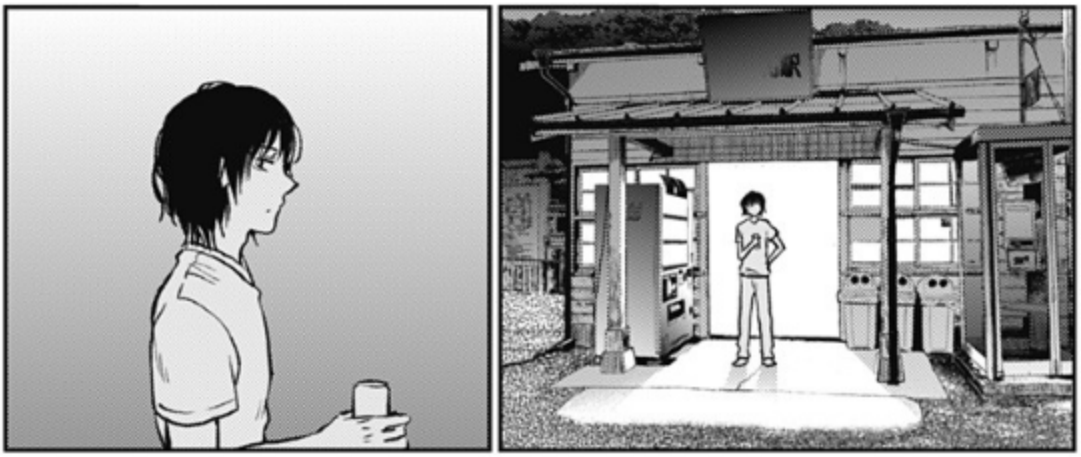
When both the past and future are shut off from me...
過去も未来も閉ざされた俺は…

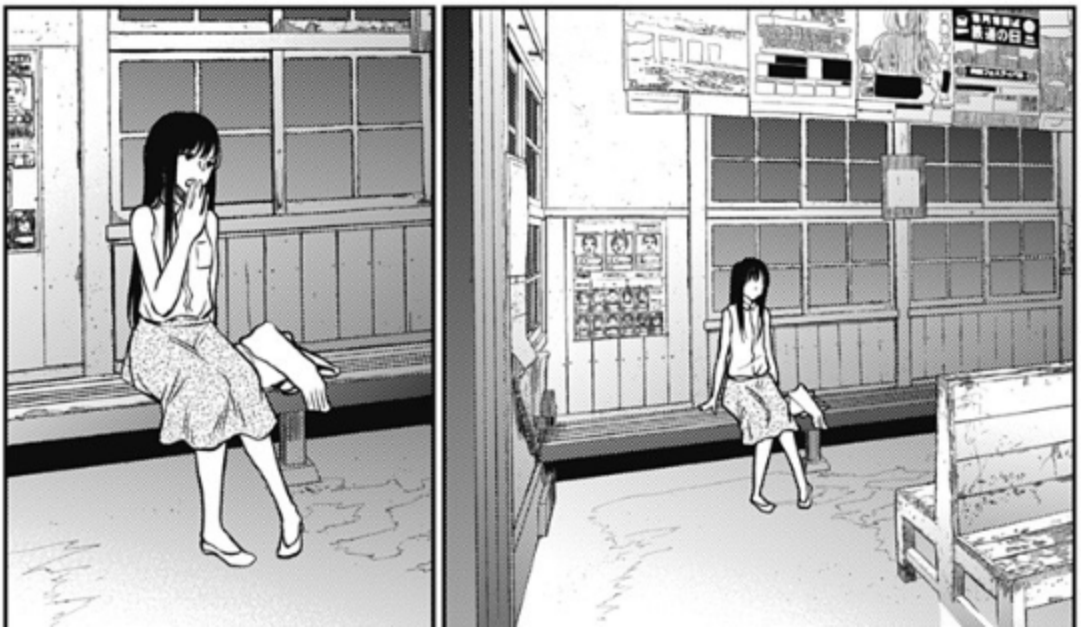

57 22
26
38 02
24
46 01
53 19
39
11
16 42
17 37
18 03 20
19 12 51
20 35
21 19
22 13 50
23
The last train was...
...No way.

Sorry, we're spending the night here.
Find some way to kill time.

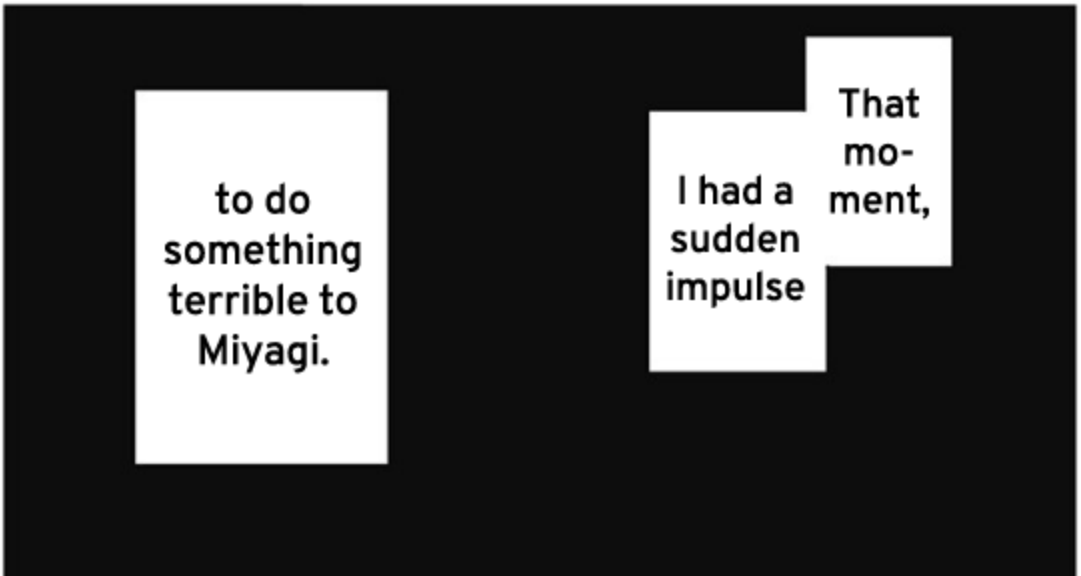
はぁ
sigh
whump

clunk
ガコン





I was just confused.
... Probably,


to do something terrible to Miyagi.
I had a sudden impulse
That moment,

I've got a question for you.
...Yes?

Once an observer finds their subject doing an "inappropriate act,"
how much of a lag is there before their lifespan's terminated?

...
And why would you be asking?

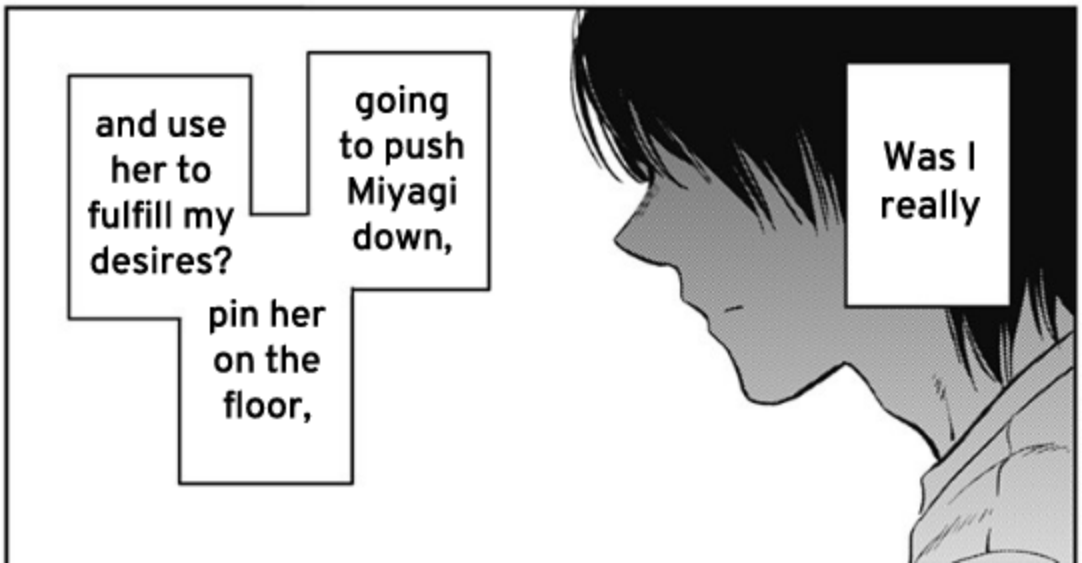
Basically, if I were to get violent with you right here,
I want to know how long it'd take before I would be killed.

Con-
tact
can be
made
instantly.
After that,
it wouldn't
take 20
minutes.
And
escape
would be
completely
impossible.

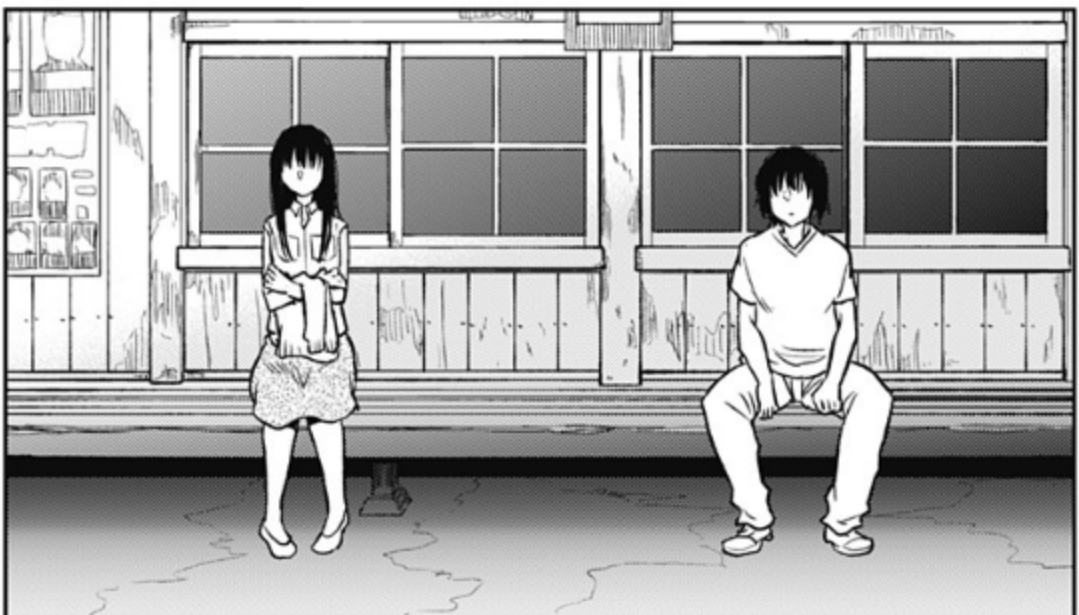
So, I'd
have about
ten-some
minutes to
act freely?

Nobody
said anything
like that.

...


Was I really
going to push Miyagi down,
pin her on the floor,
and use her to fulfill my desires?

If I did,
maybe I would injure her.
Maybe I'd be adding another wound
like the big one on her knee.
Maybe I would take even more light
from her nearly pitch-black eyes.
Maybe once it was all over,
she'd just make a sarcastic remark,
as if totally unfazed.
...Were you satis-fied?

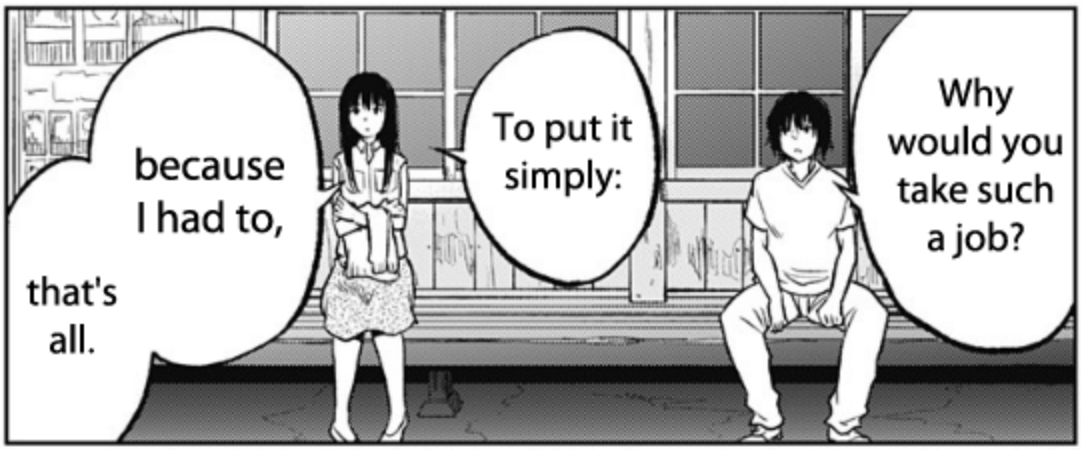


...
Must be a nasty job.

Having to deal with garbage like me all the time.
...Your under-standing is appre-ciated.

Dan-gerous job.
There's no shortage of guys like me, I bet?
Guys who go nuts when they're about to die,
and take their anger out on their observer.

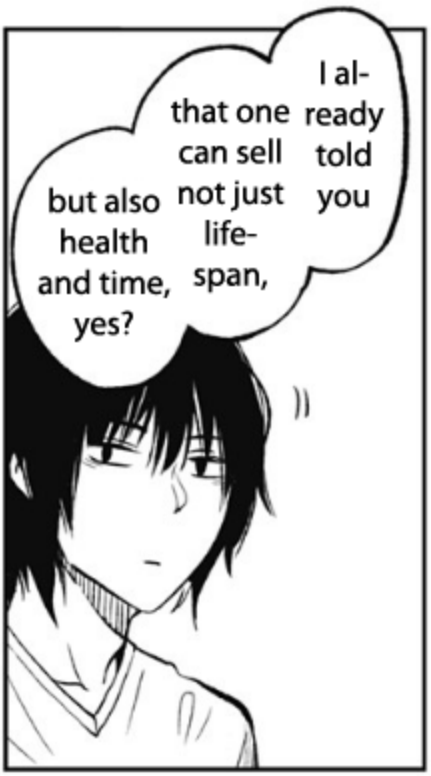
As a matter of fact,
you are more of an easy case.
There have been many who go
to much further extremes.


Why would you take such a job?
To put it simply:
because I had to,
that's all.

Tell me the not-simple version.
...
...I would have thought
you had no interest in anyone but Ms. Himeno.

That's not true at all.
If I didn't see any charm in you,
I wouldn't have considered what I did earlier.
...Is that right.
Thanks, I suppose.

You don't have to talk,
if you don't want to.
No, well,
I have nothing particularly to hide in my past...


I already told you
that one can sell not just life-span,
but also health and time, yes?

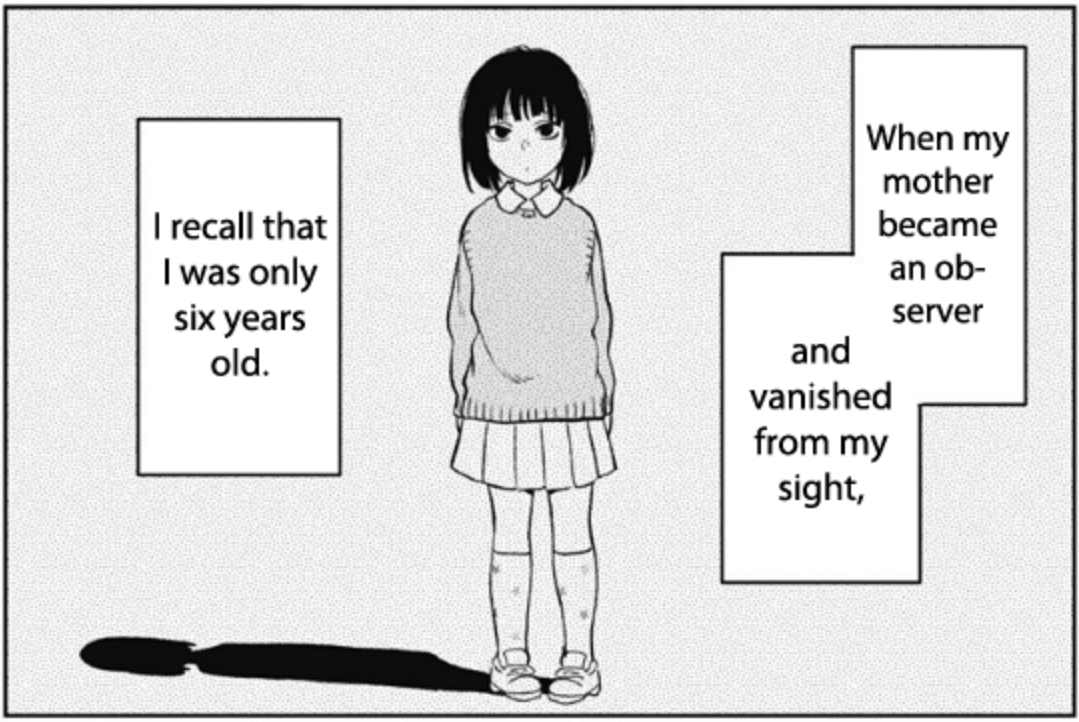
In short,
I sold my time.
Roughly thirty years of it.

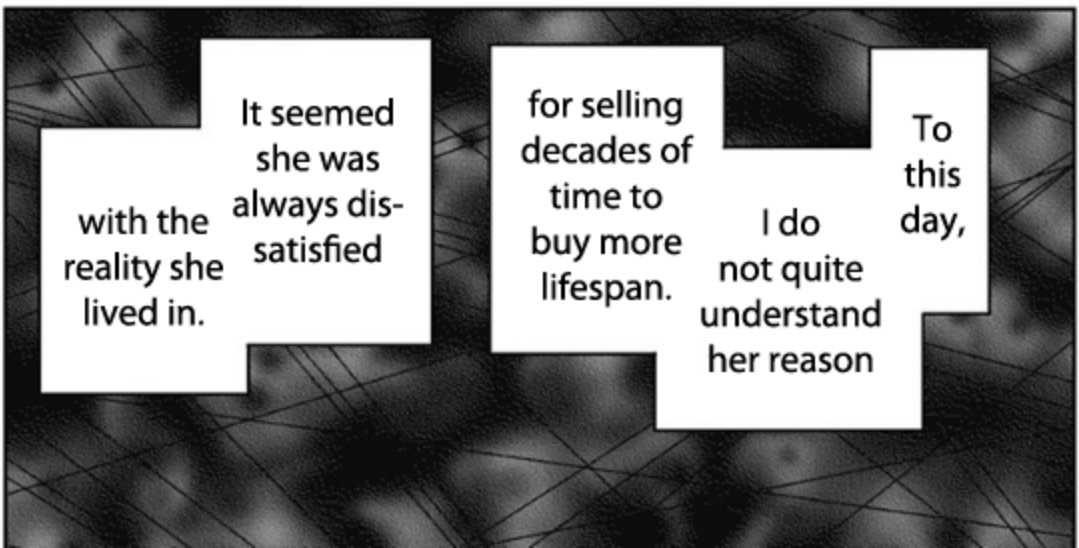
Most of the observers are people who came to the shop like you
and chose to sell their time.
Though by doing so,
they effectively sold their safety and relationships as well...

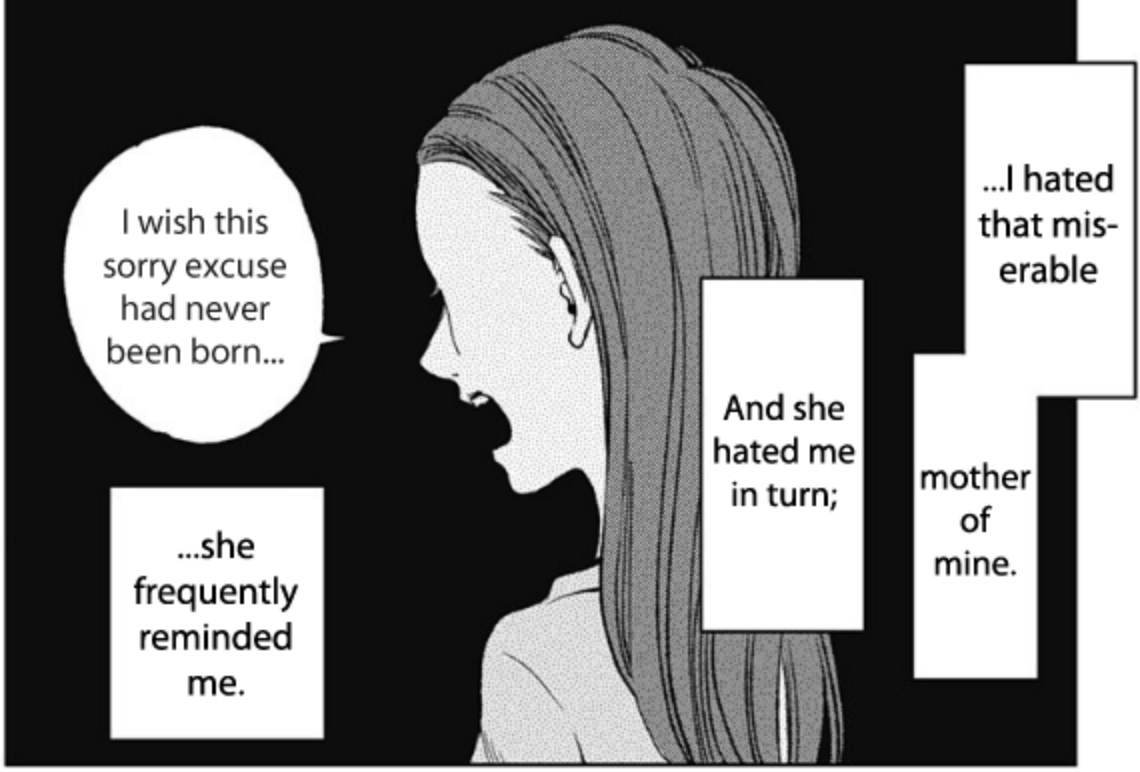
If you sold thirty years, that means you'll be free in your forties?
Indeed I will.
Of course, that's only... assuming I survive to see it.

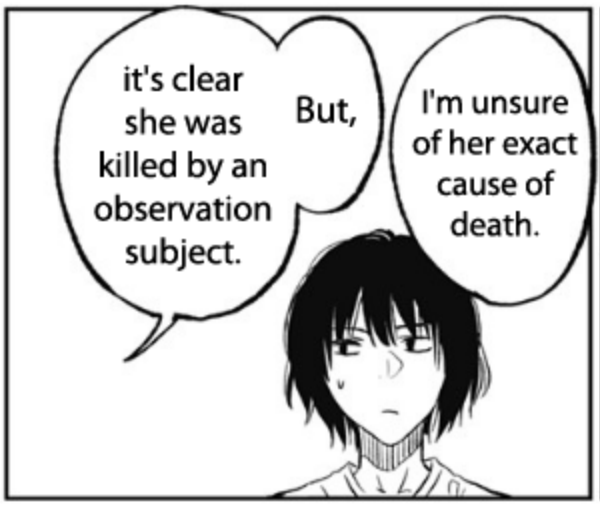
... Why would you need money that bad?
What if I told you it's not very interesting?
...Oh well.

There's still time
until the train comes, I suppose...


I recall that I was only six years old.
When my mother became an observer
and vanished from my sight,


It seemed she was always dissatisfied
with the reality she lived in.
for selling decades of time to buy more lifespan.
To this day,
I do not quite understand her reason


I wish this sorry excuse had never been born...
...she frequently reminded me.
And she hated me in turn;
...I hated that miserable
mother of mine.


But, it's clear she was killed by an observation subject.
I'm unsure of her exact cause of death.

A few years into being an observer,
when I was age ten,
she died.

When I first heard that,
I wondered if that wasn't considered fraud.
As much as you may extend your lifespan,
injury and illness are another matter entirely.

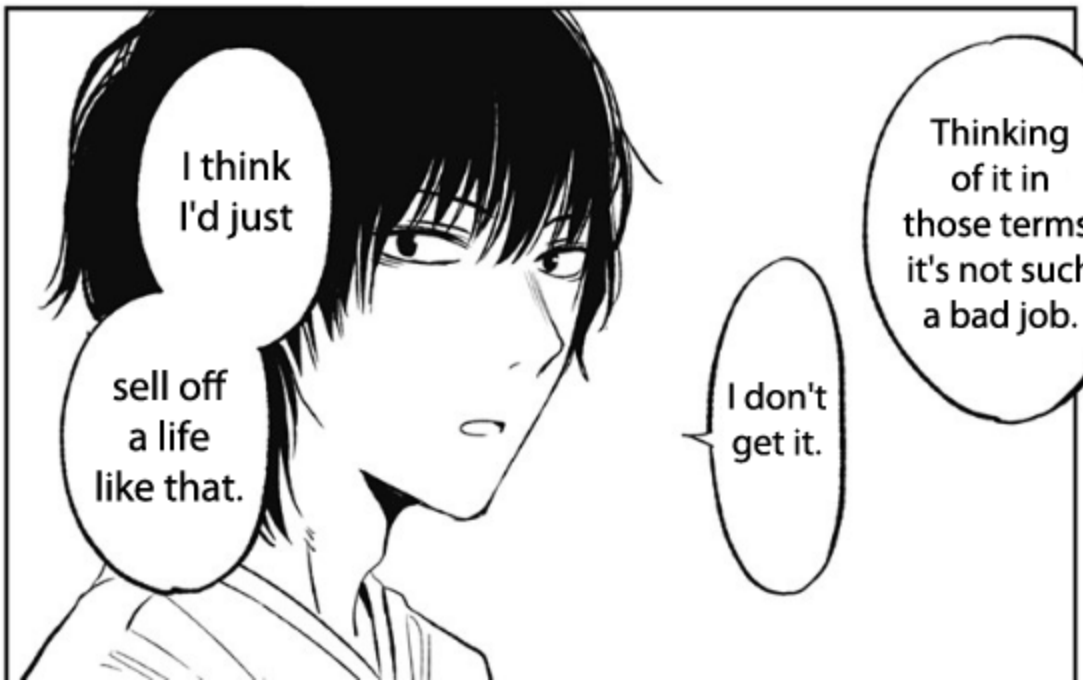
You have a debt.
...The man who informed me of her death
told me something else of importance.

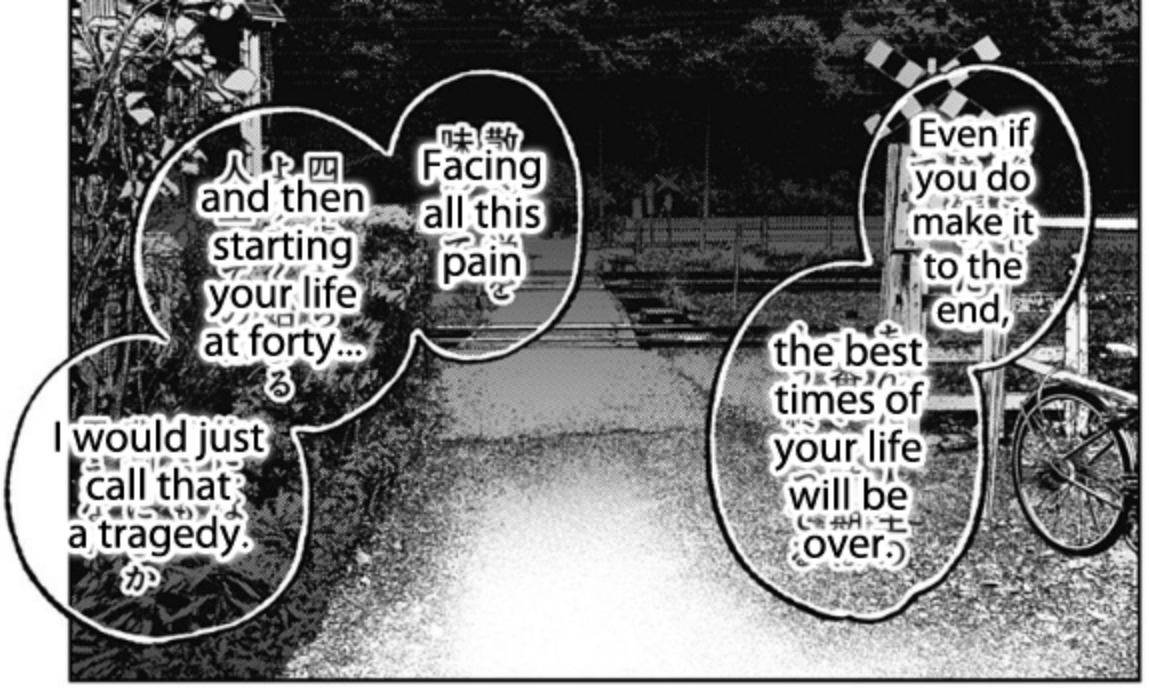
for you to pay it back now.
There are only three ways
The enormous debt my mother left.

Those are your options.
Sell your lifespan,
or sell your health.
sell your time,

So then, you picked time.
Indeed.
And that brings me to today, living as an observer.

It's a lonely line of work, with many dangers.
But for what it's worth, it has given me deep insight into people's lifestyles and the value of life.


Thinking of it in those terms, it's not such a bad job.
I don't get it.
I think I'd just sell off a life like that.


Even if you do make it to the end,
the best times of your life will be over.
Facing all this pain
and then starting your life at forty...
I would just call that a tragedy.

So it'd be better to sell it.
If my life-span were actually worth anything,
certainly I would do so.

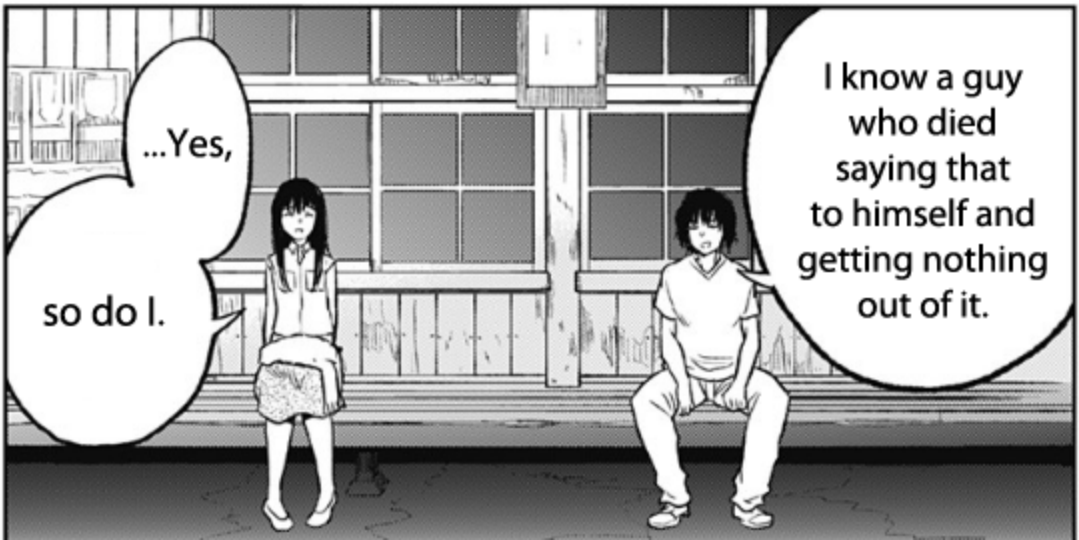
What's it worth?
The same as yours.

10,000 yen per year.
If I've been overly harsh with you,
I believe it's because of how you overlap with myself.
So I apologize for taking it out on you.

...Well, I don't wanna be rude,
but isn't that even more reason to just die already?
It means there's nothing to look forward to.
Yes, you're right.
You're absolutely right.

There's no point in living,
I'm an irrecon-cilable fool.
yet I'm compelled to survive.
because I take after my mother, who bought lifespan and clung to hope.
in es-sence,
And yet I suppose I can't do so,

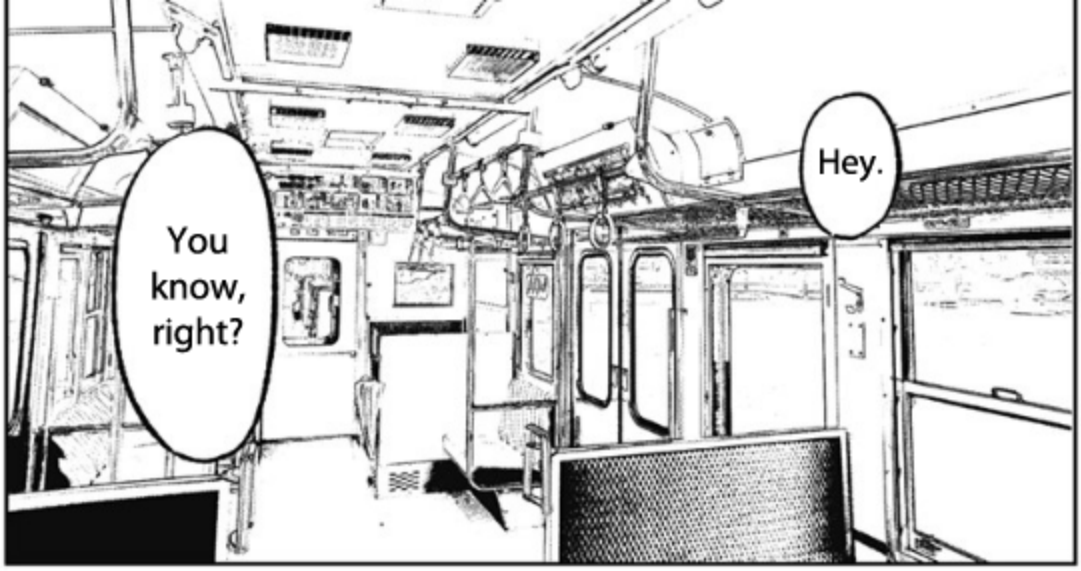
Don't you think?
"Perhaps something good will happen someday."
But...
You see, it's not that simple.


...Yes,
so do I.
I know a guy who died saying that to himself and getting nothing out of it.

Hahaha...
click
カチッ
click
カチッ
!
click
カチッ

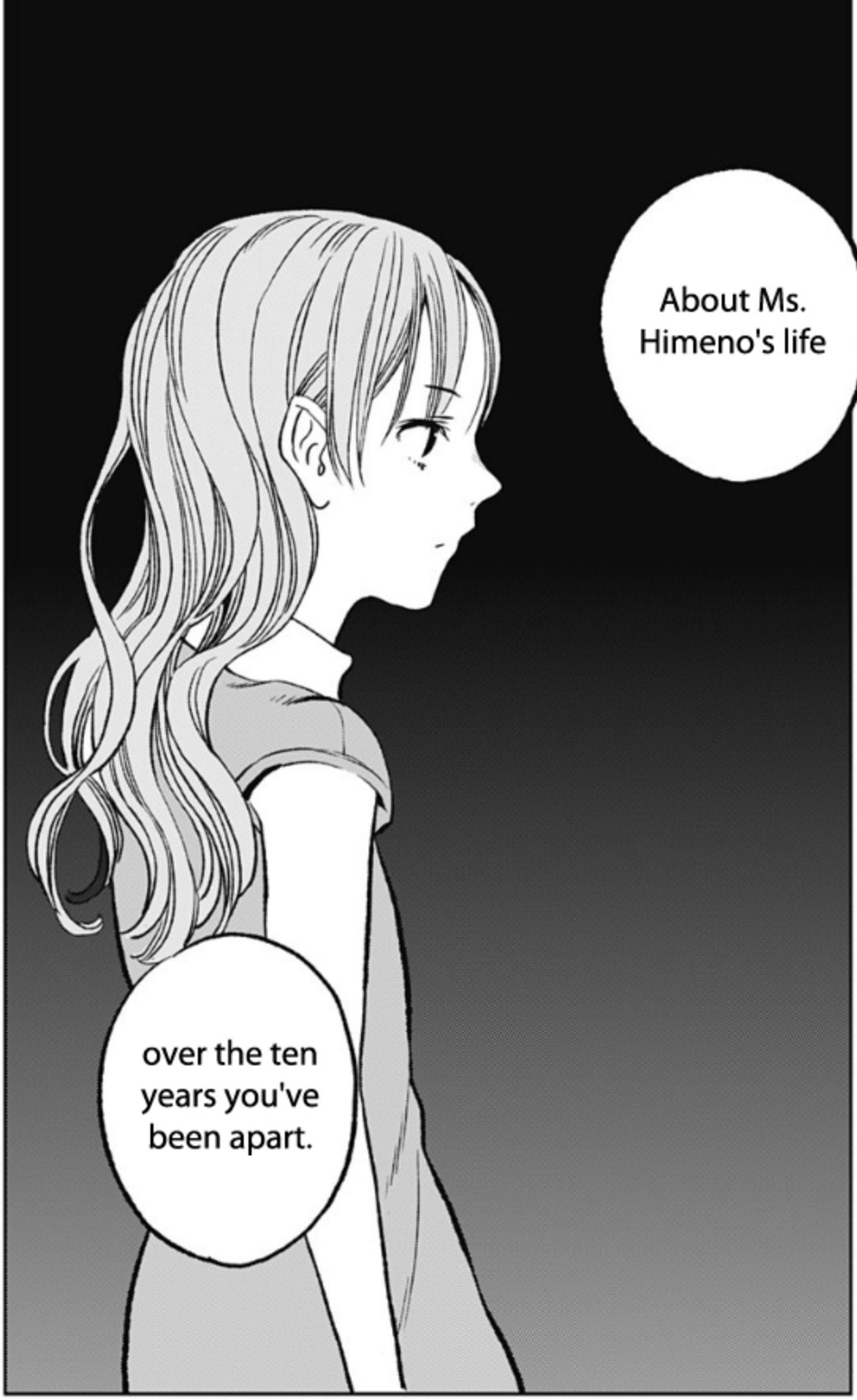
Seeing Miyagi relaxing for the first time,
I told myself:

せめて彼女にとって
一番傍(そば)にいて楽だった
監視対象者として
記憶されようと
I'll at least have her remember me as the easiest subject to be around.


Hey.
You know, right?

About what Himeno's like now.
Could you tell me?

...
It will be harsh.
Yeah, yeah.
I still want to know.
Under-stood.
Then I will tell you.


About Ms. Himeno's life
over the ten years you've been apart.